BUSINESS / B1

New all-time high
for stocks, but brokers say market needs relief

METRO / A17

2 guards killed,
5 hurt in attempt to rob armored van

NEWS/ A4

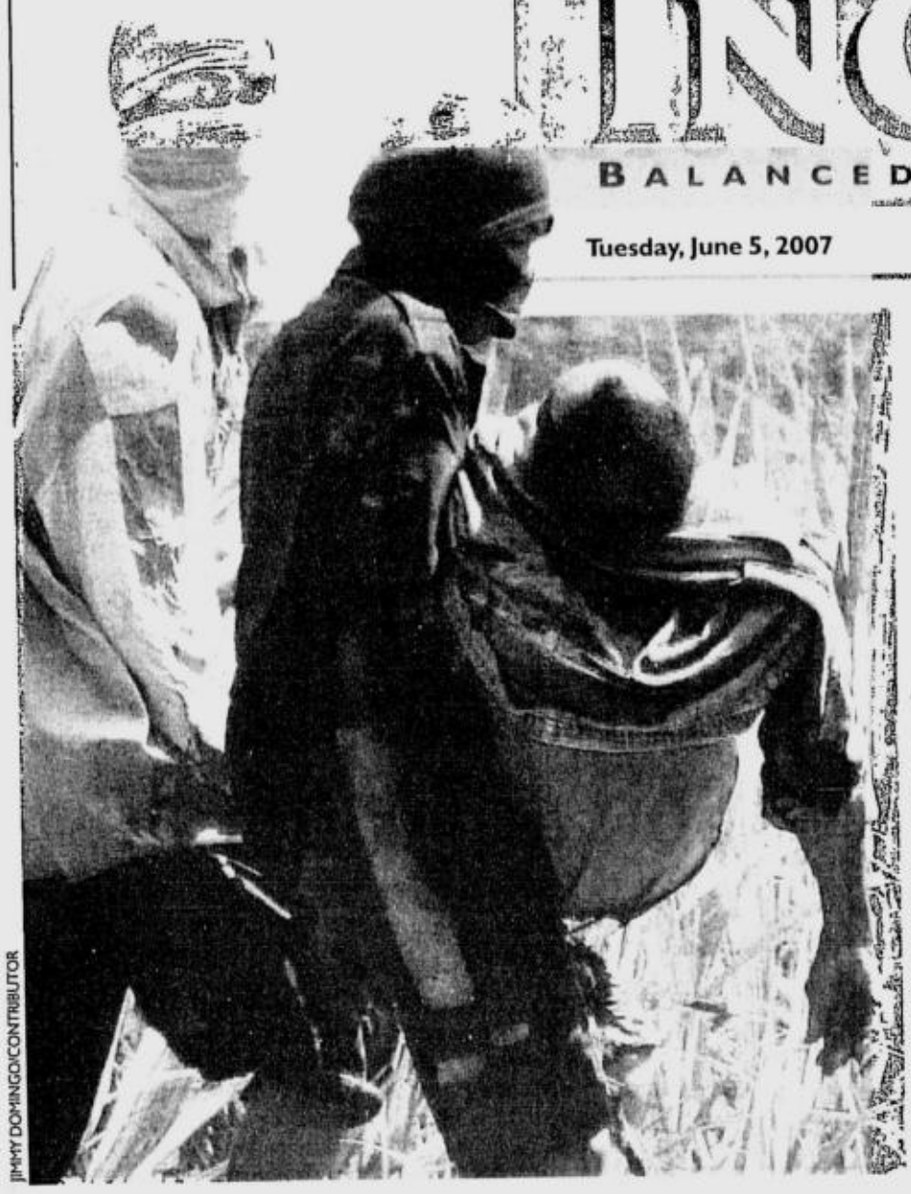
Recto concedes
defeat in May 14 senatorial race

NEWS / A9

P126-M lotto jackpot
goes to 'lucky pick' bettor from Cebu

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, June 5, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 177 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

A MORTALLY WOUNDED member of Task Force Mapalad, Alejandro Garcesa, is carried away by other farmer beneficiaries.



JIMMY DOMINGO/CONTRIBUTOR

Viagra-fed oysters arouse int'l interest

SYDNEY—AN AUSTRALIAN oyster farmer has hit upon a technique he believes has created the ultimate aphrodisiac—feeding his shellfish the anti-impotence drug Viagra.

VIAGRA/ A13

Only Buhay may get three seats

Comelec ruling upsets Bayan Muna

By Nikko Dizon

THE DUST IN THE PARTY-list race has yet to settle but a new controversy looms with the announcement of the Commission on Elections yesterday that only the No. 1 group would get the coveted maximum three seats in the House of Representatives.

In accordance with the Comelec ruling, only the prolife El Shaddai-associated Buhay, which is currently leading the party-list race, would be entitled to three seats.

The militant group Bayan Muna will likely get two seats, down from its three seats in the 13th Congress.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said the poll body would use the so-called "Panganiban formula" instead of the commission's "2-4-6 formula" in determining the number of seats each winning party-list organization would have in the incoming 14th Congress.

"It's only the No. 1 group that will get three seats under the (Panganiban) formula," Abalos said at a press conference

ONLY BUHAY/ A4

ELEKSYON 2007 — HAMERE

84 provinces and 15 Metro Manila CoCs As of 4 p.m., June 4, 2007		197,084 out of 224,748 precincts (87.69 %) As of 11:41 p.m., June 2, 2007	
1 LEGARDA	17,989,060	1 LEGARDA	15,200,169
2 ESCUDERO	17,784,813	2 ESCUDERO	14,926,697
3 LACSON	15,179,222	3 LACSON	12,880,049
4 VILLAR	14,922,056	4 VILLAR	12,537,728
5 PANGILINAN	14,163,684	5 AQUINO	11,965,505
6 AQUINO	14,025,754	6 PANGILINAN	11,930,557
7 ANGARA	12,073,113	7 ANGARA	10,403,534
8 CAYETANO, A.	11,503,585	8 CAYETANO, A.	9,691,262
9 ARROYO	11,338,241	9 HONASAN	9,636,150
10 HONASAN	11,286,424	10 ARROYO	9,618,637
11 TRILLANES	10,922,164	11 TRILLANES	9,248,609
12 PIMENTEL	10,638,470	12 PIMENTEL	8,985,408
13 ZUBIRI	10,511,323	13 ZUBIRI	8,811,731
14 RECTO	10,228,204	14 RECTO	8,599,532
15 DEFENSOR	9,521,444	15 DEFENSOR	8,075,073
16 PICHAY	9,277,516	16 PICHAY	7,938,313
17 ROCO	8,301,422	17 ROCO	7,027,063
18 MONTANO	7,439,846	18 MONTANO	6,444,301
19 SOTTO	7,196,039	19 OSMENA	6,095,478
20 OSMENA	7,104,521	20 SOTTO	6,082,898

Zubiri cuts Pimentel lead by 64,248

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Christine O. Avendaño

FINALLY, THE WAIT IS OVER FOR the senators in the first 10 slots in the Magic 12.

The Commission on Elections has decided that it will proclaim them tomorrow, setting off a fierce battle for last place between Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III of the Genuine Opposition (GO) and Miguel Zubiri, the remaining Team Unity (TU) candidate with a chance to barge into the opposition-dominated winning circle.

Zubiri cut Pimentel's lead over himself by 64,248 votes to 127,147 votes after some half a million votes from Lanao del Norte and Sultan Kudarat were tallied yesterday by the Comelec sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC).

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday identified the new senators as GO's Loren Legarda, Francis "Chiz" Escudero, Panfilo Lacson, Manny Villar, Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, and Alan Peter Cayetano; independent candidates Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan and Gregorio Honasan; and Team Unity's

ZUBIRI/ A13

2 farmers killed, 6 hurt in Negros hacienda row

By Carla P. Gomez, *Inquirer Visayas*
TJ Burgonio *in Manila*

BACOLOD CITY—TWO FARMERS were killed and six others were wounded yesterday as a long, simmering fight over land exploded in volleys of gunfire.

The farmers accused security guards of landowner Roberto Cuenca of firing on them without provocation. A police official said the guards opened fire after the farmers ran after them.

The shooting occurred when some 100 farmer-beneficiaries tried to cultivate a piece of land on which the Department of Agrarian Reform had installed them nine weeks ago, according to the farmers' account.

The land was at Hacienda Velez-Malaga in Barangay Robles, La Castellana, Negros Occidental.

Killed were Alejandro Garcesa, 70, and Ely Tupas, 52, both holders of certificates of land ownership award (CLOA).

Wounded were Jude Capitania, 32; Jobert Malayas, 25; Rene Florendia, 27; Alan Hagocoy, 26; Norberto Diamante, 47, and Andre Barcoma.

Both Garcesa and Tupas participated in a monthlong hunger strike in front of the DAR central office in Quezon City held by 25 farmer-beneficiaries to demand their immediate installation on a 144-hectare portion of the 446-hectare hacienda.

The shooting broke out after the farm-

2 FARMERS/ A8

FIXING EDUCATION FLAWS

Textbooks shot through with errors

By Fernando del Mundo

(Second of three parts)

5-TEAM *Report*

ANTONIO CALIPJO GO SAYS YOU ONLY have to look at the textbooks used in public schools to find out what's wrong with the Philippine education system.

"Fifty percent of the books are defective," says Go, 56, academic supervisor at the tiny Marian School of Quezon City tucked away in the working class district of Novaliches.

"That's being kind. In fact, the figure is higher, closer to 75 percent," says the man who, in 2002, stirred a hornet's nest in education circles by exposing more than 400 errors he had found in one public elementary textbook.

This time, Go is referring to the seven Social Studies textbooks in Filipino from the Department of Education that will be used in Grades 1-5 this school year.

All told, 11.9 million of these books, including teaching manuals, have been published at a cost of P500 million and distributed by contingents of Boy and Girl Scouts after they were delivered across the archipelago in Coca Cola trucks.

They were published under President Macapagal-Arroyo's Education for All

TEXTBOOKS/ A13

GMA invites Pope Benedict anew to visit Philippines

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

VATICAN CITY (VIA PLDT)—POPE Benedict XVI and President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday discussed human rights in a private meeting before she flew to Portugal for a pilgrimage to the miraculous shrine of Fatima.

A Vatican statement underlined the warm relations between the Philippines, a Catholic bastion in Asia, and the Vatican.

It said the Pope and Ms Arroyo spoke "in particular about the respect and promotion of human rights and democratic institutions in the region." It gave no details.

During the meeting, Benedict gave Ms Arroyo an ivory box containing the

GMA INVITES/ A8

ERIK ARAZAS

REP. CRISPIN Beltran (third from left) is greeted by colleagues from other militant party-list groups, Joel Virador, Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza, and other supporters upon his return to the House of Representatives.

Beltran rejoins lawmakers at Batasan

By Christian V. Esguerra

FIFTEEN MONTHS OF DETENTION may have slowed him down but they failed to silence him.

Granted temporary liberty by a court, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran returned to the House of Representatives yesterday, accused the Arroyo administration of "political persecution," defended his right to speak out against official corruption, and questioned the President's claims of economic growth.

Beltran's family plans to sue the government for P15.6 million in damages for illegally detaining the militant lawmaker.

The 74-year-old veteran labor activist appeared to be in a fighting mood, wearing a half-tone red *barong* Tagalog over a red undershirt for his congressional homecoming.

Unmindful of his blood pressure that had shot up to 200 over 100 before dropping to 150/100, he even made jabbing motions in the air to show he was fit.

He entered the plenary hall to an ovation from supporters, many of whom were in red shirts.

"I am innocent of the rebellion charge against me," Beltran said in Filipino during a privilege speech.

"It's neither a sin nor against the law to speak against graft and corruption and the killing of hundreds of innocent civilians."

Beltran, who has repeatedly denied involvement in an alleged coup plot to overthrow Ms Arroyo involving communist rebels and military rightists, made it clear to his fellow lawmakers that his release

BELTRAN/ A13

POPE BENEDICT XVI welcomes President Macapagal-Arroyo at the end of a canonization Mass at St. Peter's Square. AFP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2007

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Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon, Palawan and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/06/04/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

'Bongbong' takes gov't side vs Tan

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE GOVERNMENT'S BID TO RECOVER alleged ill-gotten wealth from taipan Lucio C. Tan received an unexpected boost yesterday after Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr. agreed to testify against the Chinese-Filipino businessman.

According to Marcos' lawyer Eloisa Sy, her client is prepared to back the government's claim that a significant chunk of Tan's firms belongs to the Marcos family.

"Mr. Tan is claiming that he owns the corporations, the government is claiming they are owned by the Marcoses," she said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

"[Bongbong] Marcos will now want to testify that the properties indeed belong to them."

At stake is a combined 60-percent in Tan's nine companies that the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) wants forfeited in favor of the state.

The nine companies are Fortune Tobacco Corp., Asia Brewery Inc., Allied Banking Corp., Foremost Farms, Himmel Industries Inc., Grandspan Development Corp., Silangan Holdings Inc., Dominium Realty and Construction Corp., and Shareholdings Inc.

The PCGG believes the assets were part of former President Ferdinand Marcos' ill-gotten wealth. The government's stand is based mainly on an earlier declaration by former First Lady Imelda Marcos that her husband was the actual owner of 60 percent of the companies held in trust by Tan, his family and business associates.

Tan was an ally of Marcos. Forbes Magazine has estimated his personal net worth at $1.5 billion, making him the richest man in the Philippines.

In a separate telephone interview, Sy said the younger Marcos "will testify on his personal knowledge of the transactions that his father had with Lucio Tan."

"We made this manifestation today," she said, after attending a hearing on the case at the Sandiganbayan.

Sy declined to reveal the younger Marcos' motive for agreeing to testify for the government at this point, especially since the government had been trying to serve him a subpoena since February.

The court has tentatively agreed to hear Marcos' testimony on Aug. 1, she said.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines

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BERNARD L. DAGCUTA
Governor for Eastern Mindanao

ROGELIO V. GARCIA
Governor for Western Mindanao

GO solons meet with Estrada on Senate leadership

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

POISED TO WREST CONTROL of the Senate, political rivals of President Macapagal-Arroyo have started discussing who among them will lead the chamber and who will chair its key committees.

This was separately confirmed yesterday by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Sen. Manuel Roxas II, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and Senate President Manuel Villar.

As counting in the May 14 midterm election nears completion amid claims of fraud and vote-rigging in some parts of the country, the opposition appears set to dominate the 24-seat Senate while allies of the President will command control of the 275-seat House of Representatives.

"We have already met once," said Lacson, who is certain of reelection under the Genuine Opposition ticket put together by detained former President Joseph Estrada.

Lacson would not say who initiated the meeting, which, according to a source, was held in Estrada's resthouse in Tanay, Rizal.

He said a good number of senators were present. "We can get a clear majority. It was quite a big group. We will continue talking," he said.

Roxas confirmed a meeting was held but also did not give details.

"We had a fellowship. We talked with each other about the legislative agenda. I think this (issue of the Senate presidency) will begin to percolate after the proclamation of the winners (of the May 14 election)," he said. "Everything is very preliminary."

Jinggoy Estrada confirmed that opposition stalwarts who attended the birthday celebration of Sen. Loi Estrada at the resthouse of the elder Estrada on Sunday held informal talks that night, but added that nothing was firmed up because it was still too early at this stage to settle on anything..

The younger Estrada is reportedly interested in heading the public services committee, while Lacson is keen on the blue ribbon committee, both currently chaired by Team Unity's Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Jinggoy Estrada declared that "whoever we support will win."

Villar said he was confident he would keep his post of Senate President but was aware that Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. posed a serious threat.

"Of course, why not? I see no problem," Villar told the INQUIRER when asked to assess his chances of staying on as Senate President amid the rumors that a faction in the opposition wanted to be represented by an uncompromising leader.

"We will not be Senate President if we are not skilled in these things. But it is too early to tell. We have to first define the opposition," said Villar, one of eight Genuine Opposition candidates leading the vote count in the recent elections.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, who also appeared headed for reelection but under the administration Team Unity ticket, said it was too early to hold a caucus. *With an AFP report*

Opposition seeks fair fight for speakership

By Norman Bordadora

AS MORE CONGRESSMEN-ELECT from the administration coalition step forward to challenge the leadership of Speaker Jose de Venecia, a member of the opposition yesterday called on the majority party to agree on only one candidate for the speakership.

If not, lawyer Rufus Rodriguez, congressman-elect from Cagayan de Oro City, said the country may face the "highly anomalous" prospect of having both the Speaker of the House and the minority floor leader coming from the administration coalition, the two biggest parties in which are Lakas-CMD and Kampi.

Rodriguez said the House rules state that the second placer in the speakership fight becomes the minority floor leader.

"There's no way a member of the opposition can place second in the speakership race if Speaker De Venecia (Lakas-CMD) and Cebu Congressman Pablo Garcia (Kampi) go all the way in the speakership fight in the plenary," Rodriguez said. Two other administration representatives, Quezon City's Mary Ann Susano and Agusan del Norte's Edelmiro Amante, have also announced their interest in vying for the speakership in July.

Rodriguez said choosing the administration candidate through a vote in a caucus before the House plenary elections would ensure that the post of minority floor leader would remain with the opposition, as is the practice.

Rodriguez said members of the opposition want one candidate from the administration and one from their ranks to vie for the speakership.

The administration coalition now has more than 200 members elected to the 14th Congress. Kampi, to which Garcia belongs, has 48 members, Rodriguez said.

We (in the opposition) only have 35 members. There's no way we can muster enough votes," he said, adding that it was "highly anomalous" for a member of a party allied with the administration to lead the minority in the House.

For purposes only of vying for the minority leadership, Rodriguez has declared his own bid for the speakership.

But he said that the opposition, among themselves, would also work out who should vie for the speakership.

Rodriguez said members of the opposition who have expressed interest in the minority leadership include Nueva Vizcaya Representative-elect Carlos Padilla, Sorsogon Representative-elect Salvador Escudero and San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora.

"The 35 opposition members elected to the next Congress will meet on Wednesday to iron out who among us will run for Speaker," Rodriguez said.

Watchdog asserts ARMM polls 'farcical, fraudulent'

By Jerome Aning

ELECTION WATCHDOG KONTRA Daya yesterday described the recent polls in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao as "farcical and fraudulent."

In its report released yesterday, Kontra Daya blamed the extreme poverty of the people, their exploitation by unscrupulous politicians and the inefficiency, if not complicity, of the Commission on Elections.

"Extreme poverty is a condition that has been fully exploited by the poll cheaters who believe that anyone in dire need can be bribed," Kontra Daya said.

Traditional practices

The watchdog also said unscrupulous politicians had exploited some Muslim-Filipino traditional practices for selecting leaders to justify illegal electoral practices.

The group cited the Maranao practice of *kanduri* or thanksgiving, in which gifts are shared with extended family members on special occasions like births and weddings. Now it is being used by politicians as a guise for bribing voters, the group said.

"While the wealthy and powerful spend hundreds of millions of pesos on their electoral campaigns, buying out rival candidates, rigging votes and engaging in various other forms of electoral manipulation, the Moro people suffer deprivation of essential social services, underdevelopment and extreme poverty," the group said.

Although elections seem to have become an opportunity for the poor and desperate to earn a few pesos, Kontra Daya said "it is undoubtedly the grand cheaters in power who bag the biggest loot."

The group also noted that mayors had generally become more influential than the sultans, thus the fierce rivalry for local elective positions."

One of the poorest

The ARMM—which includes Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur, Shariff Kabunsuan and Maguindanao—is one of the poorest regions in the country.

According to government data, the area's per capita gross regional domestic product is only P3,433 or a staggering 75.8 percent lower than the national average. Poverty incidence in the region was a high 45.4 percent in 2003, almost twice the national average of 24.4 percent. It also has the lowest functional literacy rate of 62.9 percent.

Same cast of characters

Kontra Daya, which sent a 17-member team to observe the special elections held May 26 in 13 Lanao del Sur towns, also blamed the Comelec for the confusion and disorder that ensued in the region.

The group said "the same cast of characters" like senior election officials linked to ex-Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, who were accused of involvement in electoral fraud in 2004, were retained and promoted in the ARMM.

In Lanao del Sur, Kontra Daya said it witnessed first hand numerous violations of election laws. "Evidence of the Comelec's gross inefficiency, incapacity and, worse, complicity in the cheating were too rampant to ignore," it said.

The Kontra Daya team reported that many voters did not cast ballots at all for senators and party-list groups.

"Alienation from the Manila government and national politics in general seems to be one reason behind this apparent indifference to the elections for senators and party-lists," it said.

Another plausible explanation is the Comelec's lack of a sustained education campaign on their significance and importance, Kontra Daya said.

In this light, coupled with "instructions amounting to coercion" given to election inspectors," it became quite easy for the cheaters to fill out the tally sheets, election returns and certificates of canvass themselves," it said.

WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

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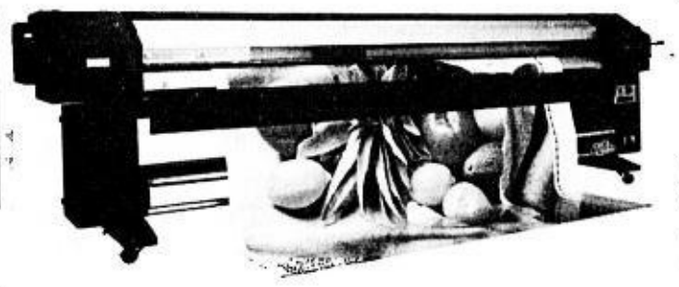

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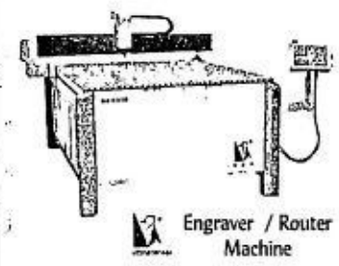
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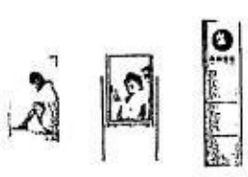
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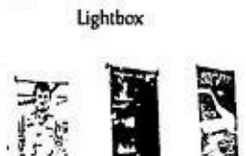
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Recto also concedes poll defeat

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. RALPH RECTO YESTERDAY conceded defeat in the senatorial race.

The 43-year-old lawmaker, who served 15 years in Congress (nine years as Batangas representative), said he looked forward to "savor simple joys [such] as driving my kid to school, taking him out swimming, honing his putting skills, or going with him to the mall."

He also looked forward to being a homebound husband to his popular wife, movie actress Vilma Santos, who won as Batangas governor.

"To the love of my life who's stood by me through these years, whose grit and grace continue to inspire and amaze me, now I can say, 'Honey, I'm home,'" Recto said in a valedictory speech titled "To Be Right Than Popular" that he read during the Senate's last session before the 13th Congress ends.

Just last week, Recto filed a case in the Commission on Elections apparently because he felt he could still improve his ranking. He was at No. 14 yesterday.

Recto is the second Team Unity candidate to concede defeat. The first to accept defeat was President Macapagal-Arroyo's former chief of staff Michael Defensor.

Recto is the main author of the expanded value-added tax law, which broadened the VAT coverage to include oil products and electricity, the core tax reform of the Arroyo administration.

"This is the time to accept the will of the people. But fate has not smiled kindly on us this time. The outpouring of votes is impressive and warmly appreciated but not enough to constitute a mandate to serve," said Recto, the only reelectonist senator who is outside the Magic 12.

"I am grateful that 10 million of my fellow citizens expressed belief in my abilities to represent them. From the bottom of my heart, I thank each one of you for the trust you have reposed in me, including the 22 men and women here who wrote my name on the ballot," he said.

No rancor or bitterness

Recto said he did not hold any "rancor or bitterness" in his defeat because he served "to the best of my ability, and always with the best interest of the country in mind."

"If I shall end up as a footnote in history, I shall be blissfully content being remembered as one who chose principles over popularity and did what was right rather than what was expedient," he said.

He quoted his famous grandfather, the late Sen. Claro M. Recto, a nationalist, who said, "The duty of a member of this chamber is not to pander to what is popular but to uphold what is right."

"My grandfather practiced supply-side politics, and that involved voicing contrarian opinions, when popularity contests otherwise known as elections require a candidate to take the safest course to a new mandate, and that is to say what everybody is thinking but in the loudest voice," said Recto. "I shall now pay the price of my intransigence. But I have no regrets."

He was heartily congratulated by his colleagues and by the staff in the Senate before he left without finishing the session.

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Corrections

IN THE JUNE 3 ISSUE, a front-page story—"New saint due to Pinoy miracle child"—misstated that the Philippines is the only Roman Catholic country in Asia. The Philippines lost that distinction in 2002 when East Timor, which is also predominantly Roman Catholic, won recognition as an independent state.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, two photo captions accompanying a Global Pinoy story on Page A22—"4 generations of OFWs define a family"—misstated the surname of a family of overseas Filipino workers. The family's surname is Camacho—not Calixto.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the title of a photo gallery published in the Talk of the Town section on Page A14—"Birdwatching in the city"—misstated the number of bird species endemic to the Philippines. There are about 180—not "more than 570"—bird species endemic to the country.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Only Buhay may get 3 seats

From page A1

after the Comelec, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC), adjourned for the day.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño described Abalos' statement as "very distressing."

"Applying the one-party formula will be against the spirit of the party-list law, which is to encourage more party-list groups to join," Casiño said.

He said it was not a coincidence that those that would be hit by the Comelec statement were opposition party-list groups.

"I hope Abalos won't allow himself to be used by Malacañang's political agenda," he said.

More popish than the Pope

For her part, outgoing Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales said Abalos was more popish than the Pope.

"We find the formula problematic as it is, but his interpretation is downright malicious and wrong by reducing us all to one seat each. They really want to annihilate independent voices in the House," Rosales said.

The party-list system allows marginalized groups to take part in legislation.

Abalos was referring to the formula created by the Supreme Court to determine the additional number of House seats entitled to a party-list group as it resolved the case of the Veterans Federation Party et al. v. Comelec in 2000. The ruling was penned by then Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban, who retired late last year as Chief Justice.

Based on the formula, the additional number of seats of a party-list group is pegged on the number of votes of the first, or No. 1 party.

Formula explained

On its website, the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) has posted an explanation of the formula by Dr. Felix P. Muga II of the Mathematics Department of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Muga wrote: "The Supreme Court formula, which we call the Panganiban-Veterans Formula, allocates one seat to the parties with at least 2 percent of the total party-list votes."

"Then the additional number of seats of a concerned party is computed by dividing its number of votes by the number of votes of the first party. The quotient is multiplied by the additional number of seats of the first party," he said.

"The integer part or the whole part of this computation is the additional number of seats of the concerned party," Muga said.

"The Supreme Court refers to the 'first party' as the party-list group that obtained the highest votes in the party-list election. The first party has one additional seat if it garnered at least 4 percent but less than 6 percent of the total number of party-list votes, or it has two additional seats if it obtained at least 6 percent of the total number of party-list votes," he said.

Muga said the formula imposed a three-seat cap to be consistent with the provision of the Party-List System Act, or Republic Act No. 941.

Prevailing doctrine

Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento told the INQUIRER that the poll body would follow the formula because "it is the prevailing doctrine."

"It has not been reversed until now. So that's what we have to follow. That's the Supreme Court ruling. You have to yield to the Supreme Court [because it is] the highest tribunal," Sarmiento said.

In April, the high court denied Cibac's petition for a second seat in the House following the 2004 party-list elections. *(See "In the Know" on this page.)*

The Supreme Court said the additional seat allocation formula should follow its decision on the VFP case.

The Comelec's audited tally as of June 2 showed that Buhay had 1,015,627 votes, followed by Bayan Muna with 816,340, and Cibac, 667,004.

Gabriela Women's Party ranks fourth with 491,928 votes while the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) is fifth with 475,190.

Some 700,000 to 1 million votes are still to be canvassed by the NBC sub-canvassing committee, according to Bayan Muna lawyer and third nominee, Neri Colmenares.

Panganiban's invention

Colmenares pointed out that it was a formula that was simply the "invention" of Panganiban.

"Where did the formula come from? Nowhere in the law did it say that there's this formula that should be followed. Nor was it in the constitutional proceedings," he said.

Colmenares said Bayan Muna had always held the "Panganiban formula wrong" such that when it was the first party in the 2001 and 2004 elections, it never questioned the "2-4-6 formula" implemented by the Comelec, which also gave other party-list groups like Apec and Akbayan three seats each.

In the 2-4-6 formula, a party-list that gets 6 percent of the total number of votes cast for the party-list elections would be entitled to three seats. A group with 4 percent will get two seats, and a group with 2 percent, one seat.

The Comelec, Colmenares said, never implemented the Panganiban formula, which was why he was surprised that in this year's party-list elections, it decided to do away with its own 2-4-6 formula.

He said the Panganiban formula was not really a formula. "It simply says that the first party will get three seats and all the succeeding parties will get their second seats if they get one-half of the vote of the first party," he said.

"The (Panganiban) formula itself is not right in general and in particular to Bayan Muna. Firstly, the formula says that it is for proportionality but in fact, it (becomes more) disproportionate for the party-list groups," Colmenares said.

Secondly, Colmenares said, the Comelec's decision to implement the Panganiban formula "is unjust and unfair to Bayan Muna," which now appears to be the second party.

"The fight isn't over yet. Of course, there's still a chance (for Bayan Muna to be No. 1). But let's say that's the trend (Bayan Muna at No. 2), now they will implement the Panganiban formula?" he said.

Personal

He acknowledged that the fight over which formula would be implemented in determining the additional seats would be somewhat "personal" because he is Bayan Muna's third nominee, and thus the one who might not be entitled to a House seat.

Should the Comelec decide to implement the Panganiban formula, Bayan Muna would question the ruling in the Supreme Court, he said.

He added that with the Panganiban formula, it appears that party-list organizations, even if they get 2 percent of the total votes cast for party-list elections, would occupy fewer seats in the 14th Congress.

In the current 13th Congress, the party-list groups occupy a total of 23 seats. Under RA No. 7941, party-list groups are entitled to up to 20 percent (some 50 seats) of the total number of members of the House.

IN THE KNOW

ON APRIL 13, THE SUPREME COURT REITERated in a ruling that the Commission on Elections should use the so-called "Veterans formula"—named after the 2000 case "Veterans Federation Party, et al. v. Comelec"—in determining the number of additional seats a winning party-list group other than the topnotcher is entitled to.

Winning party-list groups are those that received at least 2 percent of the total votes cast for the party-list election.

(See Table A—The Veterans formula)

"First party" refers to the party-list group that received the highest number of votes. It will get one seat for every 2-percent share in the total votes cast for the party-list election. A party-list group can get a maximum of three seats.

If, for example, the first party ("party-list A") garnered 12.3 percent of 28 million votes cast (for a total of about 3.4 million votes), it would be entitled to two more seats.

Following the Veterans formula, "party-list B," which got 6.9 percent of the votes (for a total of about 1.9 million votes) would get one additional seat (See Table B).

The 2000 Supreme Court decision prohibited the rounding off of the product, so party-list B would get one additional seat, for a total of two seats in Congress.

Table A—The Veterans formula

No. of additional seats for concerned party (CP)	=	No. of votes for CP / No. of votes for first party	x	No. of additional seats allocated to first party	

Table B:

1.9 million votes for party-list B / 3.4 million votes for party-list A	x	2	=	1.12

Cyril L. Bonabente, INQUIRER Research

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Photo auction slated for lensman's benefit

TWENTY-TWO TOP PHOTOJOURNALISTS will hold a silent auction of their photographs on June 6 at the Silverlens Gallery for the benefit of one of their own.

Mon Acasio, himself a photojournalist of renown, suffered a near-fatal stroke on May 4 for which his colleagues in the profession—Jes Aznar, Alex Baluyut, Claro Cortes IV, Jimmy Domingo, Albert Garcia, Nap Jamir, Ronnie Lazaro, Luis Liwanag, Isa Lorenzo, Rolex de la Peña, Ben Razon, Dennis Rito, Ed Santiago, Fernando Sepe Jr., Nico Sepe, Angelo de Silva, Jose Enrique Soriano, Wig Tysmans, George Tapan, Dennis Sabangan, Ernie Sarmiento and Stephen Wallace—will offer up their collections of photographs taken between 1970 and 2007.

Auction proceeds will go toward Acasio's medical treatment.

Silverlens Gallery is located at Warehouse 2, Yupangco Building, 2320 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. More information may be had by calling tel. 816-0044 or 0905-526-50873 or e-mail manage@silverlensphoto.com.

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Maguindanao bombing foiled by authorities

COTABATO CITY—ABOUT THE same time that United States authorities announced they had broken up a suspected terrorist plot to blow up the international airport in New York, bomb experts in Maguindanao thwarted what could have been a very bloody Sunday when they defused a powerful improvised bomb that was found in a public bus.

Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the battery-operated explosive with a time-delayed blasting device was made up of about a kilo of incendiary powder and was packed with nails and other jagged metal fragments.

"It was meant to harm or maim people," Ando told the INQUIRER.

Ando said a conductor of a Husky bus plying the General Santos City-Cotabato City route noticed two passengers acting suspiciously on the bus. When he asked them to open their bag, the two hurriedly got off, causing the other passengers to also jump out of the bus. One passenger, whom witnesses described as "police-looking," picked up the bag and threw it out the window. It landed beside a roadside toll booth in Talitay town, where police and military bomb experts eventually dismantled it.

"We are helping the Talitay police identify the bomb carriers," Ando said, adding that it was not known whether the bus was the target or the suspects were transporting the bomb.

The US Embassy had warned over the weekend that it had information that Islamic terrorists might set off bombs in bus terminals and public markets in Mindanao in the next few days. Intelligence reports pointed to operatives of the regional terror network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) in cooperation with the Mindanao-based Abu Sayyaf.

Maj. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, 6th ID chief, earlier alerted the military in the south-central Mindanao region about the reported presence in the country of Indonesian Zulkifli Bin Hir, alias Marwan, who was linked to the 2004 Bali bombing. Hir is reportedly married to a Filipino and was last seen in the Liguasan marsh in Maguindanao.

Hir, like two other Indonesian terror suspects, Dulmatin and Patek in Sulu, carries a $5-million price on his head put up by US authorities.

The discovery of the Talitay bomb came two weeks after a deadly blast at the Weena bus terminal in Cotabato City left a child dead and wounded about 30 others.

In January, seven people were killed and 44 wounded in bomb blasts in Kidapawan and two other southern towns.

In October last year, eight were killed and 22 wounded in an explosion in Makilala, North Cotabato.

All the blasts were blamed on the JI-Abu Sayyaf groups, which claimed responsibility for the worst terrorist attack in the Philippines—the February 2004 bombing of an interisland ferry that killed more than 100 people.

Washington has provided money, equipment and military advisers to help government troops battle the terrorists in Mindanao. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao; with reports from AP and Reuters*

FIRST DAY HIGH
You know school has started when antiriot policemen fight back student activists at the Chino Roces Bridge in Mendiola, Manila, near Malacañang. The students were protesting the inefficiencies in the education system. They were pushed back to Morayta Street where they dispersed. REM ZAMORA

2 seized Pinoys freed in Nigeria

LAGOS—POLICE FORCES FREED two Filipino nationals who were held hostage for a few hours in southern Nigeria on Sunday (Monday in Manila), Rivers State police chief Felix Ogbaudu said.

"They were freed by police at the Elelenwo waterfront" on the outskirts of Port Harcourt, Ogbaudu said.

The two men spent around four hours in captivity after being abducted from a bar, he added.

Military and security sources said troops fought the kidnappers, killing one of them and freeing the two captives.

Ogbaudu said the Filipinos were sailors on the MV Seacor, a vessel anchored off Port Harcourt, but did not disclose their names.

An industry source had earlier said they were employees of West Africa Offshore, a drilling company based in Port Harcourt.

The Filipinos were seized after the abduction by Nigerian gunmen of six Russians in a raid on an expatriate compound that left a Nigerian driver dead, the latest in a spate of kidnappings in the country's oil-rich south.

"Early this morning, gunmen burst into the compound on two minibuses near the Alscon factory and kidnapped six factory employees, Russian citizens," Russia's ambassador to Nigeria, Igor Melikhov was quoted as saying by Interfax.

"A Nigerian driver was shot dead" in the raid in the neighboring southern state of Akwa Ibom, he told fellow agency Itar-Tass. "One can say the kidnapping was most probably carried out for a ransom."

The Russian ambassador demanded that the Nigerian authorities "take urgent measures to obtain the liberation of the (Russian) citizens."

Before these two latest attacks, at least 11 foreigners were taken hostage by unidentified groups in the oil-rich Niger Delta in the space of 24 hours, bringing to around 50 the number of expatriates kidnapped since May 1.

Late on Friday gunmen kidnapped four foreign workers from the premises of oil services company Schlumberger in southern Nigeria's oil capital Port Harcourt, police said. Diplomats said the men included Dutch, French, British and Pakistani nationals.

Earlier Friday, a group of Indians—three senior expatriate staff and two women and two children from the same family—were seized in a pre-dawn raid from the residential compound of chemical company Indorama, also in the southern Rivers State.

Since the start of 2006, when the number of kidnappings began to rise sharply in the Niger Delta, some 190 expatriates have been seized. Most have been released unharmed after a few days or a few weeks. *AFP, Reuters*

Victory fete turns to tragedy in Cavite

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—A victory celebration for a group of young people ended in tragedy after five suspected robbers broke into the home of one of them, killing two and wounding five others in Dasmariñas, Cavite, early Monday morning, police said.

Senior Supt. Fidel Posadas, Cavite police director, identified the slain victims as Christopher Quine, 23, and Leo Balesa, 32.

Seriously wounded were Ronie Borlagdatan, 22; Aina Luceno, 31; Mark Louis Rentoy, 23; Ralph Hayag, 21, and Julius Villena, 21.

The five were rushed to the University Medical Center where they were treated for gunshot wounds.

Posadas said the victims had just come from a basketball game and were celebrating their victory when at least five unidentified men barged into the house of one of the victims at the Villa Catalina Subdivision in Barangay San Agustin at around 1:30 a.m.

The armed men announced a holdup and ordered the victims to hand over their mobile phones, jewelry, cash and other valuables.

Posadas said the victims were fired upon by the robbers after they apparently tried to fight the intruders off.

Posadas said three of the robbers were armed with .45-cal. pistols. Quine and Balesa both died on the spot.

Posadas said neighbors saw the suspects flee in a car, but they were not able to jot down its plate number. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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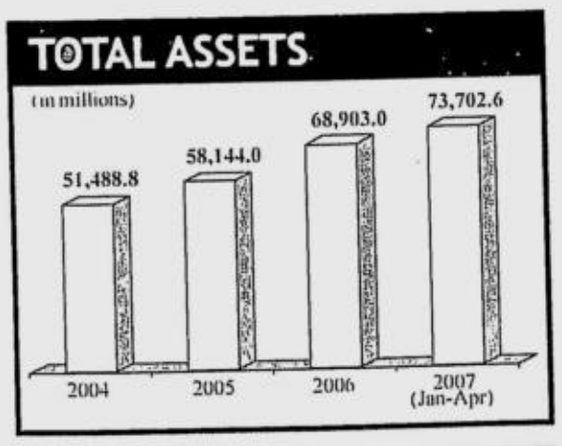

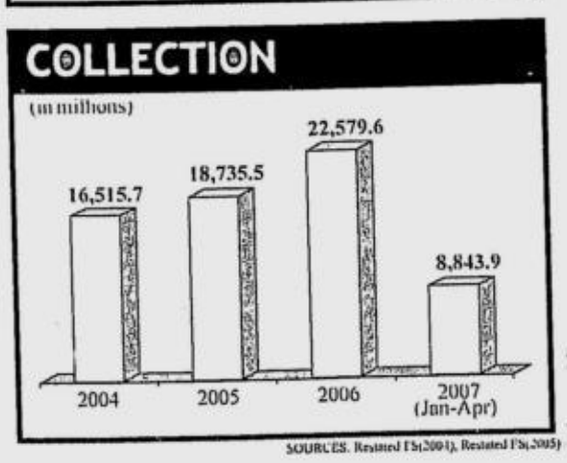

SOURCES: Restated FSs(2004), Restated FSs(2005)

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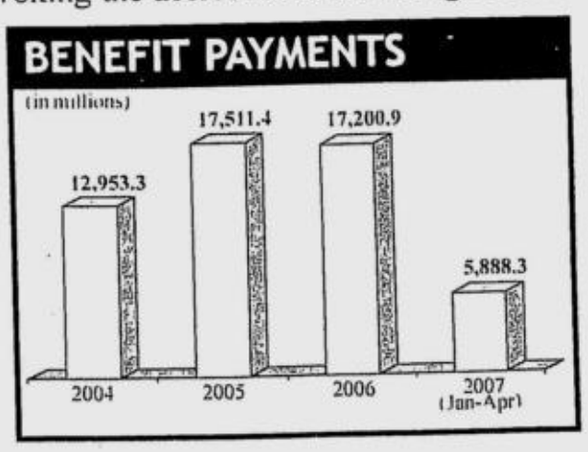

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CA won't stop Marine officer's court-martial

THE COURT OF APpeals has dismissed a petition of detained Marine brigade commander Col. Ariel Querubin seeking to stop his court-martial for attempted mutiny and other offenses, saying his fears that the trial would not be fair were unfounded.

The court also said the power of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon to order a court-martial could not be legally questioned and that the court-martial need not follow the rules of court prescribed by the judiciary.

Querubin had questioned Esperon's order recommending him for court-martial even after a pre-trial investigation panel had recommended the dismissal of attempted mutiny and other offenses against him and other officers. He said Esperon violated the requirements of due process.

Querubin was accused of attempted mutiny after protesting the relief of Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda last year, which led to a tense standoff between Marines in Fort Bonifacio.

Speculative

In its ruling, the court explained why it deemed Querubin's contention that the court-martial was biased against him to be baseless and speculative.

The court said that while Esperon convened the court-martial, other people were the ones who acted as the accusers and still others would be acting as prosecutor, judge and reviewer of the decision. It pointed out that Esperon's role ended with the convening of the court-martial.

"It is baseless for Colonel Querubin to anticipate the outcome of the court-martial because he cannot indulge in unjustified assumptions. Prejudice cannot be presumed. Nor is it justifiable for Colonel Querubin to conceive, much less presume, that the chief of staff of the AFP and the staff judge advocates, as reviewing authorities ... would all be insensitive to the great principles of justice and violate their respective obligations to act fairly and impartially in the premises," it said in a decision released on May 23.

Doing the job

It added that the officers who would participate in the court-martial should also be presumed to be doing their duties appropriately.

"The presumption that official duty will be regularly performed by officers sworn to uphold the Constitution and the law cannot be overthrown by the mere articulation of misgivings to the contrary," it said.

The court also said the court-martial was not bound by the rules of court since it was not within the judicial system and was an appendage of the executive department.

It said the court-martial did not require a pre-trial investigation. It added that even if the pre-trial investigation ordered the dismissal of the charges, the court-martial could still handle the case.

"Very much unlike a preliminary investigation in a criminal case filed with the regular courts, a general court-martial, under the Articles of War, does not regard pre-trial investigations as indispensable because even without a pre-trial investigation, the court-martial does not lose its jurisdiction," it said. *Leila B. Salaverria*

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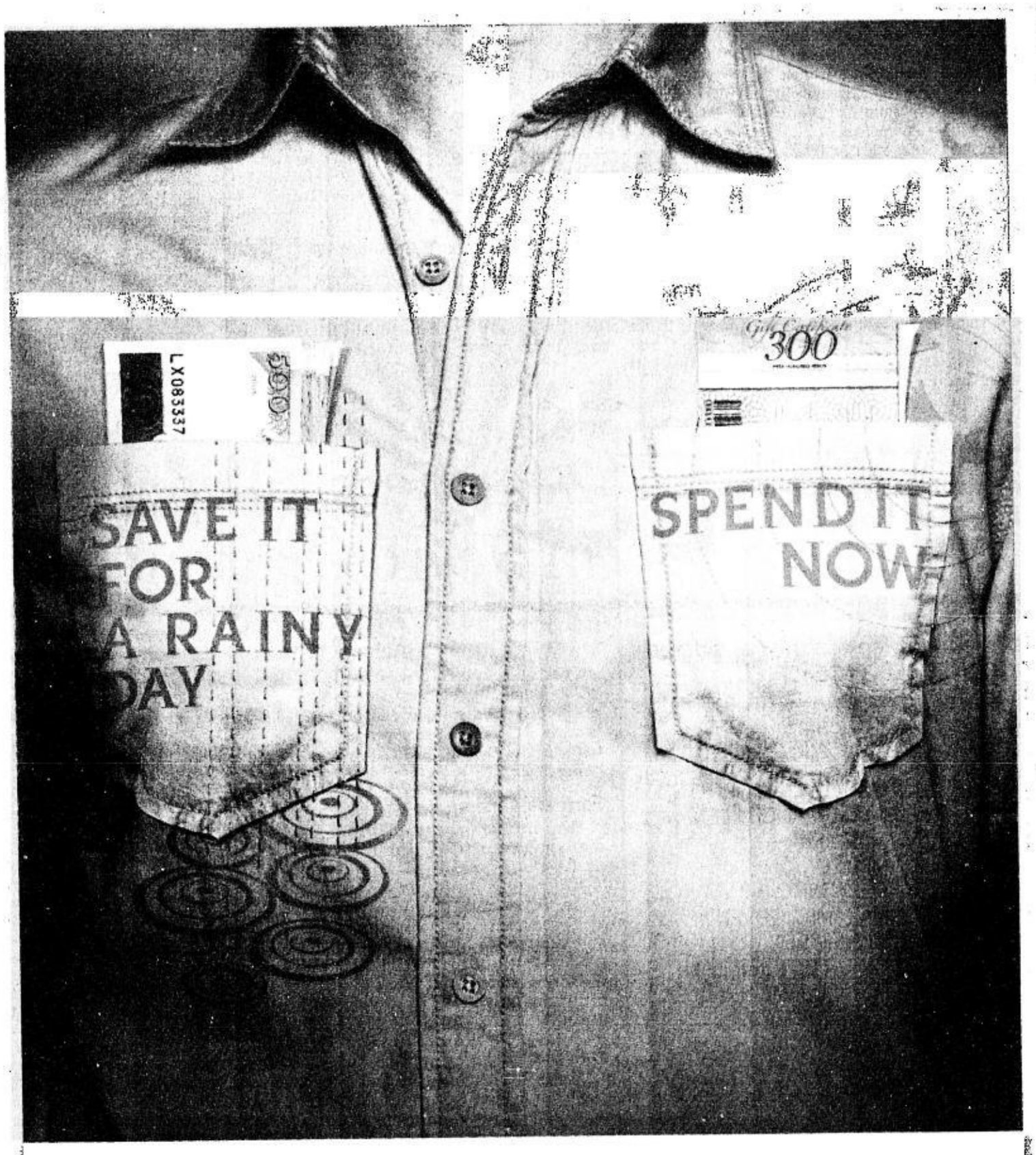

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GMA invites Pope Benedict anew to visit Philippines

From page A1

Medal of the Pontificate. He also gave rosaries to the women and medallions to the men in the presidential party.

In turn, Ms Arroyo gave the Pope an elephant ivory hand-carved Sto. Niño Dormido (Sleeping Infant), which has the Christ Child resting one hand on his face while the other is by his side.

Before the meeting, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo told reporters that the President would invite the Holy Father to visit the Philippines "if not this year, then next year."

Ambassador Marciano Paynor Jr., chief of presidential protocol, said the Pope might be able to visit the Philippines next year when he travels to Asia.

Paynor also said Ms Arroyo would inform the Pope about the progress in the economy, the holding of the May 14 elections and the issue of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines.

He said Ms Arroyo would tell the Pope that some of the killings were done by communist rebels.

The 10-minute meeting with the Pope was held in his library.

Wearing a black dress, Ms Arroyo arrived at the Apostolic Palace, the Papal residence, at 11 a.m. Rome time (about 6 p.m. in Manila), and was led by six gentlemen-in-waiting in a slow march to the antechamber.

At 11:05 a.m., the Pope, in red vestments, came out smiling, extended his hand and told Ms Arroyo, "Welcome."

"Your Holiness," she said as she clasped the Pope's hand and bowed to kiss his ring. The Pope ushered Ms Arroyo to the library.

The Philippine and Vatican media pool were allowed to take pictures of the meeting for a few seconds before they were asked to exit and the two doors of the library were closed for the private meeting of the Pope and Ms Arroyo.

After 10 minutes, the 14-member delegation of Ms Arroyo was led inside the library to meet the Pope.

Ms Arroyo introduced her delegation, which included Romulo, his wife, Paynor, Ambassador to the Vatican Leonida Vera, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Judy Araneta-Roxas, Speaker Jose de Venecia's wife Gina, Assumption Alumna Association president Baby Herrera, Palace Undersecretary for Religious Affairs Nena Valdez, and the President's daughter-in-law, Angela.

The Pope then posed for a souvenir photograph with Ms Arroyo and her delegation.

Members of the Philippine media pool, which included the INQUIRER, were allowed to greet the Pope individually.

"You are from the Philippines," the Pope told this reporter.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo (second row) attends Mass at St. Peter's Square. AP

Second meeting

It was Ms Arroyo's second meeting with the Pope since her visit here in June last year when she brought as a gift the newly signed law abolishing the death penalty in the Philippines.

They met earlier at the St. Peter's Basilica after the canonization of four new saints on Sunday morning.

After yesterday's meeting, Ms Arroyo left for Portugal for a pilgrimage to the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

Ms Arroyo, one of four heads of state who attended the solemn rites, came to witness the canonization of Marie Eugenie, founder of the Religious of the Assumption, which runs the Assumption College where Ms Arroyo attended.

At her first meeting with the Pope in June last year, Ms Arroyo invited him to come to the Philippines.

Pope concerned

"She will again invite the Pope to visit the Philippines. Hopefully next year, the Pope ... might be able to swing to the Philippines," Paynor told reporters before the audience with the Pope.

"She will discuss some of our problems, including the so-called extrajudicial killings. She will explain what we are doing about it, what she said before for the police to investigate and stop the killings," he said.

The Pope has "expressed concern" about the extrajudicial killings in the country.

Romulo said Ms Arroyo was not being defensive about the killings, which have outraged the international community. "She is explaining it because they (foreign leaders) are asking for it," he said.

Ms Arroyo had to explain the killings during her trips to New Zealand and Australia last week.

Ambassador Vera said the Vatican had not indicated any plans for the papal visit soon. "It depends on his health. This Pope has had two strokes already before he became the Holy Father," Vera said.

Pope to visit Australia

The 81-year-old Pope is scheduled to go to Australia in July next year for the World Youth Day and a side trip to the Philippines might not be possible because the long trip might take its toll on his health, she said.

Vera said this did not mean that the Pope was not giving importance to the Philippines, the biggest Catholic nation in Asia.

"He loves the Philippines so much. Every time there is a disaster, he immediately expresses his concern," she said.

Biggest crowd

The Philippines gave the biggest crowd ever in the papacy of Benedict's predecessor, the late Pope John Paul II, who came to the Philippines twice.

Paynor said Ms Arroyo's meeting with the Pope indicated the importance of the Philippines to the Catholic Church.

"We are the only Catholic nation in Asia and we are an important asset to the Church," he said.

Freedom to choose

Ms Arroyo also talked about the elections in her speech on Sunday night at a gathering of the Filipino community in Italy.

She said that in the 2004 presidential election, 62 percent of Filipinos in Italy, numbering about 200,000, voted as absentee voters, the highest among all Filipinos in Europe.

Ms Arroyo said the Italy-based Filipinos had the same turnout in the May 14 elections.

"You proved to the world that democracy is alive and well in the Philippines," she said in a speech at the Pontifico Colegio de Filipino in Rome.

She thanked the Filipinos in Italy, saying she won here in the 2004 elections.

Ms Arroyo also lauded the overseas Filipino workers for their contribution to the economy, saying dollar remittances almost doubled from $7 billion in 2001 to $13 billion last year.

"Your undying love for our country is an inspiration to all of us. Your deep pride in being Filipinos lifts up Filipinos everywhere," she said.

Good reputation

Ms Arroyo also thanked the OFWs for giving Filipinos a good reputation.

"It's not surprising that of all overseas workers here, Filipinos are the favorites of the Italians," she said.

Ms Arroyo has approved the recommendation of Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier to reduce the passport fee from 65 euros to 50 euros and the authentication fees from 32 euros to 25 euros.

She also informed the Filipinos that their driver's licenses issued in the Philippines would be honored in Italy. "It will make living here easier," she said. *With PDI Research, AP*

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The JBC announces that the following are the candidates for the position of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS** Vice Hon. Elvi John S. Asuncion;

1. ARLES, HENRY D.
2. AYSON, RUBEN C.
3. AZARRAGA, JULIANA C.
4. BAGALACSA, LORE V.
5. BALONZO, FREDDIE D.
6. BAY, TEODORO A.
7. BENDIGO, RAUL B.
8. BERNARDO, OSCAR C.
9. BORRETA, ABRAHAM B.
10. CARANDANG, MELCHOR ARTHUR H.
11. CRUZ, RAMON A.
12. CUEVA, EULOGIA M.
13. DE CASTRO, SEVERINO JR. B.
14. DIAMANTE, FRANCHITO N.
15. DUMDUM, SIMEON JR. P.
16. ERUM, BERNARDITA G.
17. FRANCISCO, RAYMUNDO T.
18. FRUELDA, CARMELITA G.
19. GAERLAN, SAMUEL H.
20. GANAY, CLIFTON U.
21. GARVILLES, EDGAR G.
22. GRULLA, CIELITO M.
23. HERRERA, OSCAR JR. C.
24. INFANTE, AMELIA T.
25. INOTURAN, NAPOLEON E.
26. LACAP, MERCEDES P.
27. LAGOS, RAFAEL R.
28. LAQUINDANUM, LILY LYDIA A.
29. LAZARO-JAVIER, AMY C.
30. LLOREN, EDGARDO T.
31. MACALINO, FLORITO S.
32. MACARAIG-GUILLEN, MARISSA
33. MADRONA, FORTUNITO L.
34. MARAMBA, JOVEN M.
35. MUÑEZ, RENATO D.
36. PACURIBOT, JERRY M.
37. PAREDES, MEINRADO P.
38. PAUIG, VILMA T.
39. PE-AGUIRRE, THELMA C.
40. PERALTA, EDUARDO B. JR.
41. PERALTA, WILLIAM SIMON P.
42. PERAS, SOLIVER C.
43. PONFERRADA, THELMA A.
44. QUERUBIN, PERLA B.
45. REGALA, LEAH D.
46. REYES, AMOR A.
47. SALUDARES, REYNALDO L.
48. SITACA, MA. NIMFA P.
49. SORIAO, PEDRO R.
50. SORONGON, EDWIN D.
51. TANGUANCO, EDUARDO I.
52. VILLASOR, EDWIN A.

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants NOT LATER THAN JUNE 15, 2007, to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr., Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9812; FAX No. 552-9598; email address **jbc@supremecourt.gov.ph**; **jbc_supremecourt@yahoo.com.ph.**

June 4, 2007.

MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

(PDI – June 5, 2007)

2 farmers killed, 6 wounded in Negros hacienda dispute

From page A1

ers, belonging to Task Force Mapalad (TFM), entered a 5-hectare area on the property, and cut down about 3 hectares of young sugarcane, said Insp. Regidor Alvarado, La Castellana police chief.

Farmers' version

The 5-hectare area formed part of the 53 hectares of land given them by the DAR.

"We were cultivating our land when three blue guards armed with shotguns hid behind trees and started firing at us," said farmer Mario Dacquiao. "When the firing started, we were surprised and scrambled in different directions."

Police version

Dacquiao said his group had no intention of fighting anyone and "just wanted to start cultivating the land that was given to us."

He said that when some of the farmers were hit by gunshots, his other companions got angry.

"Armed with farm implements, we chased the blue guards, who ran away," said Dacquiao. "We only chased them when we saw that our companions were hit."

In his version, Inspector Alvarado said some of the TFM members had gone to the PNP Regional Mobile Group to ask for help, saying they were going to enter the area that had been given them by DAR.

Suddenly, a commotion

However, while they were still talking to the police, the other farmers entered the area "and all of a sudden there was a commotion," he said.

Alvarado said the guards told the farmers not to enter but that the farmers, carrying bladed weapons, chased them. This prompted the guards to fire their guns, he said.

Garcesa was hit by bullets in the abdomen and legs while Tupas was hit in the chest, police said.

Task Force Mapalad blamed the violence on the government, particularly the DAR.

"We're holding the government accountable for what happened to the farmers," TFM legal counsel Christian Monsod said in a press briefing in Quezon City.

"The fact is, Malacañang and DAR have been playing politics with the lives of the farmers. This has to stop."

Monsod said the first step the military, the police and the DAR should make "is to make the arrests, and bring to justice the gunmen. Until now, they're still there possibly under the protection of Cuenca and maybe, even Iggy Arroyo."

The TFM has alleged that Negros Rep. Ignacio Arroyo had been using his influence with Malacañang to stop the installation of the farmers in the plantation because of his supposedly close ties with Cuenca.

The violence came less than a week before the DAR marks the 19th anniversary of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program on June 10.

Provincial agrarian reform officer Stephen Leonidas said the farmers entered the area and insisted on taking over it.

The farmers said they had a right to the property since the DAR had already installed them there.

Leonidas said his office was to have surveyed the 53 hectares granted to 57 farmers last week in order to set up boundary lines but the survey was called off because of the volatile situation as groups associated with the landowner opposed the move.

La Castellana Mayor Enrico Elumba said the blue guards should not have fired at the farmers and could have just fired warning shots.

Leonidas said he had sought the help of Elumba and Presidential Adviser Rafael Coscolluela on the possible resumption of negotiations to ensure peaceful coexistence between both groups.

But before the negotiations could resume, violence broke out, he said.

Law must be followed

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman said he had instructed the DAR officials in Negros Occidental to act on the problem and see how additional assistance could be given to protect the farmer beneficiaries.

Gov. Joseph Marañon said legal processes should be followed to prevent agrarian reform beneficiaries from taking the law into their hands.

Coscolluela said Pangandaman could be blamed for the violent outbreak. He recalled that there were ongoing negotiations between the opposing groups when the secretary intervened and installed the TFM members.

"The negotiations had been stalled and in the meantime people have died again. Where the fingers will point I don't know," Coscolluela said.

IN THE KNOW

Hacienda Velez-Malaga

HACIENDA VELEZ-MALAGA, A 446-hectare sugar plantation in La Castellana, Negros Occidental, has been a center of conflict since the Department of Agrarian Reform placed it under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in 1996.

Landowner Roberto Cuenca contested the CARP coverage at the La Carlota Regional Trial Court, which issued status quo orders in October 1996 and March 1997, stopping DAR from touching the estate.

Despite the two orders, the Land Bank of the Philippines proceeded with the valuation of the property and deposited P22.6 million in the name of Cuenca as payment. The DAR also proceeded its screening of qualified beneficiaries.

In April 2002, DAR issued collective certificates of land ownership awards (CLOA) for 144 hectares of the property in the name of 122 beneficiaries. The La Carlota RTC, however, issued an injunction and ordered that the CLOA be canceled. The Supreme Court overturned this decision in 2004.

The DAR tried to install the beneficiaries but backed off three times because of threats of violence.

In January, armed men shot and killed Pepito Santillan, 60, who tried to claim a piece of the Velez-Malaga land..

There had also been requests from the Hacienda Malaga Independent Workers Union and the Hacienda Malaga-Cuenca Multi-Purpose Cooperative for the DAR to reexamine the list of beneficiaries as they claimed that 33 persons in the list were not qualified to get land awards.

But other farmers belonging to Task Force Mapalad, an organization of militant farmers, denied the allegations.

It was not until March, after 29 days of hunger strike by some of the beneficiaries, that the DAR finally succeeded in installing 57 of 122 farmers in the property amid high tension. *Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research*

Cebu bettor wins ₱126-M lotto jackpot

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas
and Margaux C. Ortiz
in Manila

SOMEONE FROM CEbu won the P126.88 million lotto jackpot on Sunday, dashing the hopes of many other Filipinos to get rich quick.

The bettor relied on a computer to pick the winning combination.

"There's only one winner and the lucky bettor came from Cebu," said William Medici, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Visayas-Mindanao general manager.

A staff member at the PCSO central operations office in Quezon City said the office "cannot reveal the identity or even the gender of the winner for security reasons."

Roberto Cinco, PCSO Cebu provincial district chief, said the winner of the Superlotto 6/49 draw had bought five combinations of six numbers each at P10 for each combination, or a total investment of P50.

In Superlotto 6/49, one picks six numbers between 1 and 49 for a ticket. The winner must match all six numbers. Three, four, and five-number winning combination with lesser prizes.

The winner bought the ticket, with the winning combination 25, 29, 07, 04, 34 and 31, at a lotto outlet on F. Ramos Street in Cebu City.

Official records showed the ticket was purchased at 6:50 p.m. on Sunday.

Outlet owner Mario Villa said this was the second time his outlet had sold the jackpot winner since he opened it in 1998.

38 millionaires

The first time was on July 28, 2003, when someone won P56 million.

Sunday's winner was the second Cebuano to win more than P100 million. The first won P134.04 million on Jan. 9, 2003.

Since 1996, Cebu has produced 38 millionaires through the lotto.

Better chance

Bettors from Cebu have a better chance of winning the jackpot than those in Luzon because Cebu and the Visayas-Mindanao (Vis-Min) area have more lotto outlets, Medici said.

There are 1,090 lotto outlets in the Vis-Min area. Cebu province alone has 237 outlets while Cebu City has another 120.

Double the sales

Medici noted that Vis-Min sales reached P27 million for the Sunday draw alone, more than double the sales of P14 million during regular draws.

"We have no idea when the winner would claim his or her prize, but last year's winner from the Bicol region came out a week after he won the P150-million pot," the staff member at the PCSO central operations office said.

Lucy Castro of the Office of the PCSO Chair said the winner would simply have to present the winning ticket for verification at the main office before getting the check.

Biggest pot

The biggest pot is still the P150-million prize won by a couple from Daet, Camarines Norte, last year, an employee at the PCSO treasury said.

The second biggest pot was the P147 million in the Megalotto draw of March 31, 1999, while the third biggest was the P145 million in the Superlotto draw of July 25, 2002, according to the PCSO.

The biggest jackpot ever was the P202 million prize in 2002, but it was won by six people who shared the pot.

The P126-million Superlotto prize drew people to PCSO booths on Sunday afternoon like bees to a honey pot.

Ermita backs Ong app't

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Eduardo Ermita has defended Sandiganbayan Justice Gregory Ong's appointment to the Supreme Court, bolstering Ong's claim he was a natural-born Filipino and therefore qualified for the post.

Ermita countered before the high tribunal the assertions of former Senate President Jovito Salonga, saying Ong's birth certificate that stated he was a Chinese citizen could only be considered evidence of his birth.

Salonga and lawyer Emilio Capulong, representing the Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan Foundations, respectively, had asked the Supreme Court to block Ong's appointment since he was not qualified to be a justice, not being a natural-born Filipino.

The Constitution requires that members of collegiate courts be natural-born citizens.

Ermita said the entry on citizenship on the birth certificate was recorded without validation, while the findings of the BI were supported by evidence.

"Plainly then, an entry in a birth certificate may not be given greater evidentiary value than a pronouncement or determination made by the Bureau of Immigration or the Department of Justice confirming respondent Ong's citizenship as a natural-born Filipino," he said.

In the meantime, the board of trustees of San Beda Law Alumni Association (SBLAA) has expressed its support for the appointment of Ong, a 1979 law graduate of San Beda College.

The SBLAA board, representing 4,000 alumni, was joined by the Benedictine community led by SBC rector-president Rev. Mateo de Jesus, OSB.

SBLAA chair Avelino V. Cruz expressed "confidence in the sense of fair play, justice and equity of the Supreme Court," pointing out that Ong had served the Philippine justice system in various capacities for many years without the issue of his citizenship ever being an issue. *Leila B. Salaverria*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 5, 2007
9th Week in Ordinary Time
Boniface

1st Reading: Tb 2:9-14
Gospel: Mark 12:13-17

Jewish leaders sent to Jesus some Pharisees with members of Herod's party, with the purpose of trapping him in his own words. They came and said to Jesus, "Master, we know that you are true; you are not influenced by anyone, and your answers do not vary according to who is listening to you but you truly teach God's way. Tell us, is it against the Law to pay taxes to Caesar? Should we pay them or not?"

But Jesus saw through their trick and answered, "Why are you testing me? Bring me a silver coin and let me see it." They brought him one and Jesus asked, "Whose head is this, and whose name?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then Jesus said, "Return to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." And they were greatly astonished.

Commentary

Tobit is exhausted, and sleeps. Bird droppings fall into his eyes and no matter what he does, with doctors and salves, he goes blind. For four years he cannot see and his wife Anna works as a hired hand. He does not believe her when she brings a goat home as a bonus. His anger is released at her and she, in her frustration, asks him bitterly, "Where are your good deeds now?"—your true character is showing itself. Tobit and Anna are being tried and it takes a toll on them both. [note: the readings will have little or no connection to each other for many weeks]

Factions in Judaism are set to trap Jesus. They approach him with flattery and ask him if they should pay the tax to the emperor. But Jesus will not be caught. He asks them for a coin (which, in the first place, they should not have in the temple). The inscription reads: Caesar est Deus, and Caesar's image is on the coin. Jesus says, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." But he is also aware that we are made in the image of God—each unique—and not in Caesar's image that is uniform. We are to give to God ourselves—and then what is leftover, give to the emperor/government/nation.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2007

ISSN 0116-2642

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 22 No. 177

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

Election reforms

EDITORIAL

IN THE UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN AND France, the results of a legislative or parliamentary election are known within 24 hours. Japan takes about the same time to report the complete, final results of a parliamentary election. In India, a huge country with a population of 1.1 billion and a voting population of 675 million, election results are known within 72 hours.

In this age of information technology, it is possible to convey information and transmit results at the speed of sound and light. There is no reason why any nation should wait for weeks or even months to know the complete, final results of any election, unless it is so poor that it cannot buy computers and other modern IT equipment.

It's 21 days or three weeks now after the May 14 senatorial elections, but we still don't know the final, complete results: the so-called Magic 12. The trouble is that we have a Jurassic way of tabulating and reporting the results, making it possible for some people to resort to various forms of "magic" to manipulate and tamper with the election returns.

The government has to take measures as early as now to ensure that the results of the 2010 elections will be reported as quickly and as accurately as possible. President Macapagal-Arroyo would be leaving one good legacy when she steps down in 2010 if she exercises political will now and pushes through a foolproof poll computerization program untainted by graft or any irregularity of any kind. It should be easy to convince the incoming House of Representatives, which is controlled by proadministration congressmen, to pass the implementing legislation. Even the opposition-dominated Senate, we believe, would be receptive to the idea. Who would not welcome poll computerization, unless he or she has a secret agenda for 2010?

Something also has to be done about the electoral "system" in many parts of Mindanao and some provinces controlled by political "warlords." As of June 1, almost all the certificates of canvass that had not been received, or whose tabulation had been deferred, were from provinces in Mindanao: Basilan, Lanao del Norte and Lanao Sur, Sultan Kudarat, Surigao del Norte, Maguindanao and North Cotabato. The only place on the list that is outside Mindanao was Caloocan City, and since then its CoCs have been tabulated.

It is in the aforementioned Mindanao provinces where most of the wholesale and retail cheating during elections takes place, and cheaters are aided and abetted by an antiquated electoral tabulating and reporting system. If the system is changed, the opportunities for cheating would be reduced to a minimum.

The third thing that has to be done before the 2010 presidential election—if there is going to be a presidential election—is a thorough revamp of the incompetent and graft-ridden Commission on Elections. No one thinks the Comelec has done a good job in the 2007 elections except for administration officials and proadministration candidates who are benefiting from its questionable, partisan decisions and actions. Even before the elections, in February 2007, a survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations showed that 46 percent trusted the Comelec in general, whereas 28 percent distrusted it, for a net trust rating of +18. Twenty-four percent neither trusted nor distrusted the Comelec.

We realize, of course, that the Constitution provides that the Comelec commissioners may be removed only by impeachment. But perhaps they can be shamed, by constant, unremitting public pressure, into resigning before their terms are over? Then, perhaps, a convenors' group composed of prominent citizens could draw up a list of men and women of proven integrity and uprightness from which the President could pick the successors to the resigned commissioners.

The presidential election of 2010 will be one of the most crucial political exercises in the history of the nation. If the administration's figures are to be believed, the country finally seems to be on the verge of an economic takeoff. The nation has to choose the right leader to preside over it during the expected takeoff stage. Some things have to be done to ensure that the 2010 election will be a free, credible expression of the people's will, untainted by dishonesty and cheating. The first three things on the nation's "to do" list should be the computerization of elections, the correction of the electoral situation in many provinces of Mindanao and a thorough revamp of the Comelec.

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Barrel-bottom survival rates

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

HIGH-PROFILE DISASTERS, LIKE SOLAR I's oil spill which blackened Guimaras' coastline, shoved lowly mangroves into the headlines. But the more lethal threat to this threatened resource rarely makes prime-time news because it is silent: the barrel-bottom survival rates of replanted trees.

In Magallanes, Agusan del Norte, 53.8 hectares were replanted at a cost of P2.28 million. But trees survived in only one hectare, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Seafdec) scientists report. Floods swept the rest away.

Isn't this stumbling backward into the future?

"Hundreds of millions of dollars [went] to rehabilitate thousands of hectares over the last two decades," Seafdec's Jurgenne Primavera and J.M.A. Esteban told a De La Salle University conference. "(But) long-term survival rates of mangroves—the main and only meaningful index of success—hover at 10 percent to 20 percent."

In 1900, mangroves blanketed 450,000 hectares. In areas around Manila Bay, these rich wetland forests extended 20 kilometers inland. Today, only a third remains—and the area is still shrinking. It's been cut, asphalted or farmed. Aquaculture ponds now sprawl over 232,000 hectares.

To mitigate ecological damage, scientists cobbled a safety benchmark: for every hectare razed for a bangus pond, keep four hectares of mangroves untouched. We've turned a blind eye to that standard by pruning down to half-a-hectare the remaining mangroves for every one of pond. "None so blind, as those who refuse to see," the old proverb says.

There have been striking exceptions. Through self help, with little government assistance, communities in Bohol, Pangasinan and Aklan raised lush mangrove stands. Survival rates topped 97 percent, jobs were created and international accolades reaped.

UN's Food and Agriculture Organization cited mangrove reforestation by NGOs in New Buswang, Aklan, as an example of excellence in forest management. Pangangan Island school principal Felix Ytac and his students planted 54 hectares that protected the 4.5-km causeway to Calape, Bohol. Bani fisherfolk in Pangasinan parlayed a P522,000 loan to replant its last hectare of mangrove into 42 hectares of protected area that won a P1-million award. And the King of Thailand honored Eugenio Paden of Banacon Island, Bohol, for creating a 600-hectare forest that tamped down planting costs to between $66 and $78 per hectare.

Government and international projects came on stream, starting in the 1970s. For some projects, planting costs spiraled "from $100 per hectare to over $500. In a number, half of budgets were chewn up by "indirect costs": administration, supervision, etc.

The World Bank's project in Central Visayas granted valuable stewardship certificates. "But survival rates were low—17 to 19 percent covering around 491 hectares in Cebu-Bohol." Costs in Japan's rehabilitation of 11,175 hectares of mangroves ranged from P6,759 per hectare in Palawan to P15,484 in Zamboanga del Sur.

A major international project claimed it achieved survival rates of between 20 percent and 98 percent. "But these were either in rounded-off numbers or a single figure for the whole municipality," reminiscent of Maguindanao and Lanao election returns. These data "look like guesswork," Primavera and Esteban noted. "There was no information on age of stand or how survival was computed."

Haphazard evaluation is abetted further by lack of monitoring. Barrel-bottom survival rates "can be traced mainly to inappropriate species and sites," Seafdec scientists said. Government and NGOs, for example, prefer Rhizophora species which are easy to collect and plant. "But this is planting by convenience, not by ecology."

Flawed training allows this malpractice to persist. And this species is planted in exposed seaward zones, instead of where it grows naturally: in areas now crammed with controversial fishponds.

Pond ownership is complex and thorny but should not stomp down nature. "Mangroves should be planted where they used to be. And that is in fishponds, not on seagrass beds and tidal flats where they never existed."

Ignoring ecology courts high mortality rates, as seen in Calauag and Tayabas Bays in Quezon as well as in Agusan del Norte.

"Lack of funds" is the usual dodge offered for failure. But "funding is of secondary importance" in re-greening mangroves, Primavera and Esteban assert. More critical are suitable sites, better training, correct species, community commitment and grant of tenure.

"Legal protection of mangroves is not wanting." But political backbone is. RA 7161, for example, bans the cutting of mangroves, while RA 8550, PD 705 and PD 953 mandate a greenbelt. "But implementation is weak, hampered by lack of political will to enforce said laws."

"Spider webs and laws catch the flies, but let the rats escape," the old axiom says.

Ecologically sensitive but titled ponds should revert to the public domain, the scientists suggest. The government barely tapped the Global Environment Facility's buy-back schemes. Idle fishponds should have their permits scrubbed, so the Bureau of Forestry can replant them.

Like political dynasties, "single families own hundreds of hectares of pond area," the study notes. "[But] 20 hectares, even less, is the most a pond operator can realistically manage by himself." Thai shrimp farms, in contrast, average two hectares or less.

Many ponds are abandoned or yield poorly. "By reducing farm sizes, Filipino aquaculturists can increase pond yields."

But then, whatever you feed greed is never enough.

* * *

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Death and progress

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS UNPERturbed. The Team Unity debacle, she says, will not deter her from pursuing economic progress. "The path we have set for economic reforms will not be upset by partisan elections. Politics will not undo our economic progress." She has only three more years to go, she continued, and she will not be distracted by the results of the senatorial election.

Either she has good instincts for propaganda or her handlers know their business. If you notice, over the past several months, she has removed herself from the electoral scene and over the last couple of weeks has been abroad busily projecting herself as "delivering the goods." At the very least, that frees her from blame for whatever might be said about the conduct of the elections, which her people have been desperately trying to overturn. At the very most, it makes her out to be working where everybody else is playing. Or it makes her out to be engaged in the serious business of uniting the country through economics while everybody else is engaged in the frivolous indulgence of dividing the country through politics.

Nice try, but it doesn't cut.

All the alarm bells in my brain go blaring when I hear things like this. The last time I heard GMA say that she had only so much time left and would rather spend it uniting the country through economic work rather than frittering it in political play was in 2002. She even went on to pledge on Rizal Day at the end of that year to not run in 2004, knowing as she did that she was a source of dissension. Less than a year later, she cast her lot in the field, and the rest is history. Or thanks to people like Garci, this country's democracy became history.

When GMA acknowledges that she has only a few more years to go, be very, very afraid.

More than that, that was how Ferdinand Marcos postured toward the end of martial law when the world turned against him. Quite literally, the world, including the United States at one end, which would eventually force him to cut and cut cleanly, and the Filipinos at the other who, after August 1983, would have liked nothing better than to cut and cut him cleanly. During his twilight years, Marcos also postured about being busy with salvaging the economy, which he said was what the "silent majority" wanted, while his enemies were busy "salvaging" it with their fractious politics. Marcos did cut, but not so very cleanly: He had to be cut off from Malacañang by an angry crowd.

You know you're looking at trouble when you see posturing like this. At the very least what's wrong with it is that it offers a monumental contradiction. It says that a ruler, particularly an illegitimate one, can lead a nation to progress when its people do not particularly want him or her. In a parliamentary system, the kind the Charter-change proponents, including GMA herself, have been pushing for, the "vote of no confidence" that the senatorial results represent would have been enough to make a prime minister resign. I've yet to know of a nation that progressed whose ruler could not rally the people behind her. I've always thought progress was something that was premised on widespread, if not universal, support.

There's more. For you also have to ask, "What economic progress?" As in Marcos' time, the "progress," or whatever there is of it, is happening in spite of, and not because of, government. It's happening because of the OFWs, a humongous price to pay for survival. Just some weeks ago, a DFA official acknowledged the ravages overseas work was inflicting on the integrity of the Filipino family, and was incorporating that warning in its pre-departure orientation seminars.

As in Marcos' time, the "progress" is being paid for by enormous loans. Lest we forget, this administration has borrowed more than the past two presidents combined. As in Marcos' time, the "progress" isn't trickling down to the poor: GMA has yet to answer the question (she says it's "political") why the "progress" hasn't benefited most Filipinos. As in Marcos' time, or probably more so, corruption riots—we are now the most corrupt country in Asia—which answers in part why the manna isn't falling down. The officials of this government merely project their individual enrichment to that of the nation.

But in the end, what's truly chilling about this posturing is the authoritarian message it sends. What it says is that it doesn't really matter if you cheat in elections or you have a ruler who isn't elected so long as you have "economic progress." What it says is that it doesn't really matter if murder and mayhem riot, if the victims are journalists or political activists, if they live in places God forgot or in those Mammon remembered, so long as you have "economic progress." What it says is that it doesn't really matter if your liberties are taken away and the two Gonzalezes and ilk are free to dictate how you may live your life, so long as you have "economic progress." What it says is that it doesn't really matter if right is wrong or wrong is right, the guilty are rewarded and the innocent are punished, so long as you have "economic progress."

Indeed, what it says is that it doesn't really matter if you have democracy or not. That argument was expressly revived by Washington Sycip some months ago in an article in the Business section of this paper, an argument we heard throughout martial law: that American-style liberal democracy wasn't suited for the temper of Filipinos. For reasons known only to him, Sycip considers himself one.

You know you're in trouble when you hear rulers, particularly illegitimate ones, talk about "economic progress" and not "fractious politics" being what the "silent majority" ordered.

The only reason that majority is silent is that it is dead.

Carpio playing politics, too

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ON THE INTERNET, I WAS ABLE TO READ LAST Friday's decision of the Supreme Court's second division, penned by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, dismissing the Department of Justice's charge of rebellion against leftist leader Crispin Beltran and five other militant lawmakers and four civilians. As in the majority decision also penned by Carpio against people's initiative last year, this decision stands out in its hostility of language and bias against the government and the DOJ. Carpio added a whole paragraph to accuse Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and the respondent prosecutors of allowing "political considerations" to creep into their decision, just like "in another equally politically charged case." This, I think, is unfair, especially to the career officials, such as many prosecutors, who have served in the DOJ through various administrations. But so perhaps can Carpio be accused of "political considerations," given his background as a member of "The Firm" prior to his appointment, and its celebrated falling out with the Arroyo administration (reportedly because of GMA's failure to satisfy some of its many demands for appointments). Even the decision's release to media seemed timed to fall while she was in Europe, where the human rights issue against her remains hot.

* * *

For instance, Carpio accuses the prosecutors of "trivializing" the investigation of the militants' acts, but in the same manner, he may be accused of trivializing the ruling of no less than two Makati Regional Trial Court judges: Encarnacion Jaja-Moya of Branch 146 and Elmo M. Alameda of Branch 150. Both sustained the prosecution's finding of probable cause against Beltran, with Alameda denying his motion for reconsideration. At best, as Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera opined, if Carpio found some aspects of the prosecution's preliminary investigation faulty, what he should have done was to remand the case to the RTC, instead of throwing it outright for lack of probable cause. The Supreme Court could have ordered the RTC to find a more appropriate charge, e.g., inciting to sedition instead of rebellion, or, given the sensitivity of the case, another preliminary investigation.

With the way the Court overruled the RTC on probable cause, said the solicitor general, "time-honored and well-established principles on criminal law and procedure were trampled upon."

* * *

Devanadera says the government will file a motion for reconsideration, but given Carpio's influence in the Court, this may be hopeless. DOJ insiders also hint that the government could enclose a prayer that the Court deliberate en banc, as only three justices participated in the second division's deliberations—Justices Carpio, Dante Tinga and Leonardo Quisumbing. Justice Conchita Carpio Morales is said to have been out of the country while Justice Presbitero Velasco reportedly did not participate. I think this ruling is so crucial to the conduct of investigations as well as jurisprudence on cases against militants that no less than an en banc has to look at it.

* * *

In the past two weeks, the Comelec commissioners have been sitting en banc at the PICC supervising the canvassing of votes from various provinces. In a brief phone chat over the weekend, I asked Chair Benjamin Abalos how many more votes have to be tabulated and when the proclamation of Senate winners can be done. He reiterated his decision to defer the proclamation of even the top six as some 2.5 million votes remained uncanvassed in all of Maguindanao, as well as parts of Surigao del Sur, Lanao del Sur and Del Norte, Sulu and Basilan. Abalos said that this big chunk of votes can still alter the rankings of the "sure" winners and especially those at the bottom. He said he was hoping the proclamation could be done toward the end of this week. I stressed **to him the need to wind down the tension and adopt poll reforms before the more crucial 2010 presidential elections.**

* * *

Abalos lamented how some quarters didn't want the NBC to open the ballot boxes from Maguindanao, owing to allegations of cheating raised by the opposition. But he asked how the NBC could find out if the election returns were spurious or tainted if it did not open those ballot boxes. He also lamented that the Comelec's usual critics failed to credit the poll body for deciding to set aside the certificates of canvass after it saw that 19 senatorial candidates had obtained zero in all the 22 municipalities of Maguindanao. Queried on what the poll body would do now with the Maguindanao votes, he said it was contemplating a re-canvassing, meaning, going down to a perusal of the ballots themselves. In the event, said Abalos, all parties would be represented by their officials and watchers.

* * *

That information about 19 senatorial candidates obtaining zero in all 22 municipalities in Maguindanao is significant since there's a lot of confusion about the 12-0 vote for Team Unity reportedly obtained there. Comelec officials stressed that it's not true that the Genuine Opposition team obtained zero votes in that province; its top candidates, such as Loren Legarda, Manuel Villar, Francis Escudero and Panfilo Lacson, got substantial votes there (although recently Lacson was seen on TV demanding to know from the Maguindanao provincial administrator why he got zero there). But poll officials explained that because Maguindanao is GMA country and the opposition had no presence there (only two opposition candidates ran for mayor in the entire province), the TU candidates obtained many more votes than GO and they all landed in the magic circle. I suppose it's the same in Navotas where GO got a solid 12-0—TU candidates like Joker Arroyo, Edgardo Angara and Migz Zubiri got a lot of votes, but not enough to put them in the Magic 12. Of course, those whose only agenda is to discredit the elections will not say they got votes in Maguindanao.

Picked up, tortured and accused

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE SUPREME COURT MAY HAVE DELIVERED a nasty shake-up and talking-to to Malacañang and the Department of Justice on the arrest and detention of five leftist legislators. But still, that doesn't mean they've necessarily learned their lesson or that the military has stopped arresting suspected "rebels" on dubious grounds and seeking to ferret out information from the detainees by means of torture.

In the bad, old days of martial law, these acts were known as "human rights violations," but these days government lawyers argue they constitute "trial courts' and prosecutors' prerogative to determine probable cause."

Just how far law enforcement and security officials as well as prosecutors would go to determine (or create) probable cause is illustrated in the following account by Pastor Berlin Guerrero of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines who was picked up last May 27 by armed men. As far as I know, he is still in detention at Camp Pantaleon Garcia in Imus, Cavite. Here is his account, edited only for clarity.

* * *

I AM a Pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and never participated in any killings, illegal or unlawful activities, or any common crime.

Even more absurd is the accusation that I am the secretary of the CPP Provincial Committee in Cavite. This lie they tried to extract from me by means of physical, mental and psychological torture and projecting me in public as a "hand-gun- and grenade-carrying rebel."

My family and I had just taken a tricycle from the local church which I have served for two consecutive years (June 2006-2007) and where we just celebrated UCCP's and the local church's 59th and 72nd anniversaries, respectively. On that day, May 27, at around 5:30 p.m., a white van cut the tricycle's path and military-looking men quickly alighted to grab me, despite my plea that they show me the warrant they said they had. I was manhandled and forcefully shoved into the van, my hands handcuffed behind me, my head covered with cloth and packing tape, and beaten, punched and kicked repeatedly.

* * *

THEY brought me to a place I didn't know. Here, still handcuffed, men would take turns interrogating me and beating my head with their fists and blunt objects, like a 1,000-ml mineral water bottle. All throughout, layers of plastic bags covered my head. My torturers would tighten the bag until I could no longer breathe. I passed out two times and urinated in my pants.

They made me shake my head for about an hour and beat me whenever I stopped. They said they would do the same things to my family if I did not cooperate. I was forced to give names and addresses of my whole family, officers of the church and conferences, the name of my administrator at Union Theological Seminary where I am studying theology, leaders of progressive labor and peasant organizations in Southern Tagalog.

They opened my computer by forcing me to give the password, and got my e-mail password. They erased all of my church, school and personal files and replaced it with documents that belong to the so-called underground Left.

After about 12 hours, they put me back in the van, still handcuffed and blindfolded. They threatened to kill me, burn me or bury me. They continued to beat me and made up new names for me. They even got the "SIM" of my ATM card.

* * *

THEY called me "Pastor-Impostor," lecturing me on the "evils" of communism and how the church, legal people's organizations are "used" to create trouble by criticizing the government.

When the van stopped, they made me wait an hour before they led me down, made me sit and lie down. After an hour, they removed my blindfold. I learned that I was in Imus, Cavite, specifically at Camp Pantaleon Garcia, Cavite Provincial Police Office (PPO).

I saw the warrants of arrest only later in the afternoon. Only then, too, did I learn what unit of the PNP I was turned over to by my abductors.

Now that I have the time to collect my thoughts and view my situation inside what police officers call a "sub-human" cell, let me make a preliminary analysis of my unfinished ordeal.

1. The unit which abducted me is an organized AFP unit which operates covertly or below the law. It is composed of elements coming from different units of AFP's Intelligence Community. As a counter-insurgency unit, it uses ex-NPAs. They are lawless enforcers.

2. Making use of court cases which involve suspected personalities of the Left, no matter how weak, these cases may be served and used to make the arrest legitimate. In my case, I am implicated in a murder case that happened in 1990. Case files show that I do not have a direct or indirect link to the crime.

3. To bring me to the court by means of the arrest warrant is secondary. Their primary objective is to extract information from me by means of torture.

4. It is also meant to terrorize my family, my relatives, friends, church members and practically everyone I know and who know me. It creates a thinking that this repeated attack on a person's right, which may end in incarceration or death, can happen to anybody.

I am outraged by their branding me as "Pastor-Impostor" because it is an affront to the sacred office I have sworn to serve, to God Almighty who knows every heart and mind.

Finally, I hold the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo government responsible for the abduction and torture I have suffered and the subhuman captivity I am forced to accept. The GMA administration should listen to the repeated cries of the people to stop violations of human rights and the political killings.

They may have put me in jail, but my spirit is free and firm because God is with us always.

G-8 Summit and climate change

WORLD VIEW

Katherine Sierra

TWO YEARS AGO, THE G-8 SUMMIT IN GLEneagles, Scotland, promised to advance a clean development agenda and mobilize financial support for greener growth in the key emerging market economies. This year's meeting in Heiligendamm, Germany, must deliver on that promise.

Since Gleneagles, a critical mass of public support to act decisively on climate change has developed. Some say a tipping point has occurred. The science and the economics of climate change have come closer as a result of the overwhelming scientific evidence in the studies of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Sir Nicholas Stern's Report for the UK government on the costs of action and inaction. Around the world expert officials, the business community, concerned citizens and responsive governments are coming together to find common solutions to a global problem that may be the single most important issue we face as a global community.

In Heiligendamm, the G-8 leaders, together with representatives of major emerging economies (Brazil, Mexico, China, India and South Africa, who have a critical stake in energy consumption to continue to generate economic growth), will discuss a comprehensive approach encompassing a set of energy options, from energy efficiency and renewable energy, to clean coal, carbon capture and storage, and carbon sequestration. They also have a chance to advance the use of market mechanisms to do two things: mitigate climate change, and, at the same time, create incentives for expanded use of clean energy.

An important way to achieve both objectives is by expanding carbon markets. Carbon finance is an effective vehicle for channeling funds for climate-friendly investments, including to the developing world. Last year alone, the size of the world carbon market tripled to over $30 billion, of which about 20 percent went to projects in the developing world. By one estimate, with a long term, predictable and equitable post-2012 global regulatory framework for curbing greenhouse gas emissions (when the Kyoto protocol expires), carbon markets could develop exponentially and deliver financial flows to developing countries of anywhere between $20 and $120 billion a year.

The funds are sorely needed. World Bank calculations show that developing countries need an annual investment of about $165 billion through 2030 just to supply electricity to their people. Of this sum, only about half is readily identifiable. On top of this $80 billion gap, developing countries will need another $30 billion per year to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector alone and get on a low-carbon development path, and $10 billion to $40 billion more per year to adapt to the already inevitable impact of climate change.

A G-8 commitment to the global carbon market will foster long-term financing beyond 2012. Such carbon finance can also tackle deforestation, which represents about 20 percent of the global CO_2 emissions causing climate change. A forest carbon facility can reward forest conservation as a means of protecting the climate while also preserving ecosystems and generating income for poor communities in developing countries. The World Bank is keen to work with partners to experiment with such a facility for avoided deforestation.

An expanded carbon market can help pay for a transformation to a low carbon economy, but it won't be enough. Like other new markets, it will take time to mature and reach out to places with weaker market institutions.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said that rich countries need to take the lead because only then will the less developed economies follow, and she is right. The United Kingdom recently announced a new £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund International Window. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said his country is ready to look into the possibility of creating a new financial mechanism, with substantial funds for the relatively long-term, to help developing countries halt global warming. These are the types of climate change leadership that the world needs.

Mobilizing large-scale financing for clean investments today and over the next five to 10 years is critical because this is when developing countries will essentially "lock-in" carbon emissions for the next 50 years. If we can help them get on a low carbon path, we will have taken a giant step forward in preserving and protecting our planet while enabling them to reduce poverty and offer their citizens a better future.

The meeting in Heiligendamm can advance the commitments made at Gleneagles two years ago and bring the world closer to a more sustainable future. *Project Syndicate*

Katherine Sierra is vice president for Sustainable Development of the World Bank.

Scholarship

YOUNG BLOOD

Ariel C. Lopez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I STARTED TAKING GRADUATE COURSES A WEEK BEFORE our graduation from college. Excited by the prospect of teaching in the same university this school year, I believed it would help if I took advanced studies last summer.

Unfortunately, this was also the time when my friends went on vacation. As they enjoyed the beach and the sand, I labored hard, searching for documents in the archives, reading books and encoding my paper on the computer. My friends, on the other hand, had little to worry about. Some of them were already assured of jobs in multinational corporations, with salaries double or even triple what I expected to receive from teaching.

Why did I choose to pursue a life in the academe?

Definitely, it's not for material gain. Salary in entry-level positions in government-run academic institutions can't support a decent life in the metropolis, much less support a family. Even the nature of my work may not be attractive to some. Friends and relatives had long warned that since my discipline requires spending long hours in archives and libraries with lifeless documents and books, I would not be able to "explore" the outside world or have time to find a partner.

I cannot say that doing research and teaching were my childhood dreams. University life exposed me to the realities and problems of Philippine education. Though we have competent scholars in various areas of knowledge, they are very few. Only a small percentage of students specialize or enroll in graduate programs after receiving a bachelor degree. Some of those who earn graduate degrees later pursue a career abroad or shift to new and more financially rewarding careers. I have a friend who has a Ph.D., but is now studying nursing. He has become disillusioned with the academe. The stomach must be filled first before the brain can function. Thus, some scholars become unproductive, without research or publications because of involvement in money-making ventures, which are not at all academic. We can't blame them for they have families to support.

The sight of professors struggling hardly inspires young students to pursue higher studies. Due to the lack of an adequate pool of scholars, research in the Philippines is in bad shape. Even a non-expert can observe this problem. Quite a few professors have told me that bundles of documents in our National Archives are yet to be "re-discovered." Not only because of the lack of scholars, but also for lack of funds, these documents either remain untouched or are used only by foreign historians.

Knowledge of history among our youth is similarly lamentable. During my undergraduate days, the project of our Civic Welfare Training Service class involved conducting tutorials for grade school pupils in a depressed area along Agham Road in Quezon City. One Saturday, I was teaching basic Philippine history to a group of Grade 5 pupils when I heard a commotion at the back. The kids were arguing whether the national hero, Jose Rizal, was still alive. This led me to think of their teachers. What did they teach? Or did they teach at all? Have all good teachers gone abroad to seek greener pastures? And how can one expect students to be scholars or academicians when the basic foundation of education in the elementary has been eroded? We don't even have any assurance that these children will have an opportunity to enter college.

It seems to me that these problems are inter-related. The failure of basic education also spells doom for the institutions of higher education as half-baked students enter our universities. Hence, the future of scholarship in the Philippines is bleak. If one were to write an erudite work, would students appreciate it? Will they have the same interest for knowledge and academic excellence? Who will be the next generation of scholars?

From research and scholarship, we are assured that the knowledge imparted in classrooms is up-to-date, true and relevant. At the University of the Philippines, I know some professors who continue to teach despite offers of high-paying jobs in private institutions. Others strive to become real scholars despite their heavy teaching load and the little time they have left for research. Teachers giving basic education provide the same labor and sacrifice—maybe even more so because they have the additional task and responsibility of inspiring their pupils to engage in higher intellectual pursuits.

I am glad that by joining the faculty of a public university, I'm giving something back to the people after getting 14 years of education in public schools and being educated and inspired by my teachers in high school and professors in the university. Like them, I will strive to contribute to building our nation through scholarship and teaching.

Ariel C. Lopez, 20, is a recent graduate of BA History (summa cum laude) from the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

'I concede'

"I concede to ease the tension on the ground and dismiss any notion that there may be illegal acts committed to attain my victory. I concede so as to enjoin my allies and friends who may want, in their desire to have me win, commit acts inimical to the essence of democracy and fair play in an electoral battle. I concede because I love my family and I want my children to learn that there is honor in defeat."

—Team Unity senatorial candidate Michael Defensor accepting his loss in the senatorial elections

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The myth of 'one-child' policy

LETTERS

THE NEWS ITEM "FARMERS RIOT VS. 'one-child' policy " (INQUIRER, 5/23/07) should serve as a warning for some of our legislators who, equating population growth with poverty, are pushing for a comprehensive policy on population management that urges, among others, a two-child policy in the Philippines.

The article reports that the police clashed with protesters in Southern China as thousands of angry farmers rioted when family planning work teams went around homes imposing fines on families with too many kids. Earlier, there were reports that China's "one-child" policy has resulted in forced abortions, sterilization and confiscation of property.

China's population control policies were introduced in the late 1970s amid fears that population growth would outstrip natural resources and government services. The policies limit urban families to one child, and parents in rural areas to two children if the first is a girl. Because the traditional Chinese preference for male heirs is still strong, a problematic gender imbalance has resulted as families have aborted female fetuses or sold young women to places where there are not enough of them for men to marry. Labor shortages and questions of who will support an aging population have also become major concerns.

In this regard, Prof. Zhang Yi, from the Institute of Population and Labor Economics, told Asia News: "In the beginning, it was believed that our big population would be a hindrance to our economic development. But over the decade, experience has told us otherwise." He cited the case of Japan which has very little in terms of resources and has one of the highest population densities in the world; yet it is a thriving economy and one of the richest nations.

Indeed, it is not population growth that hinders economic development but the inequitable distribution of resources. Let us learn our lessons well from the experience of our Asian neighbors and be better off for it.

—MARITA R. WASAN,
executive director,
Pro-Life Philippines Foundation Inc.,
Good Shepherd Convent Compound,
1043 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City

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Sore losers in Bataan continue to gripe

I FIND THE INQUIRER COVERAGE OF the political contest in Bataan to be one-sided. Until now, no one has actively reached out to the huge majority of voters that elected Gov. Tet Garcia and his team. I want to answer those allegations from the people whose comments saw print in the INQUIRER.

Norberto Gonzales is the national security adviser. Isn't it pathetic for someone in his position to say that he and his daughter Marie Gonzales were cheated in their own province?

How can he possibly do his work for the country if he can't even protect the votes for his daughter in Bataan? And why doesn't he admit that the last election was the fourth time he and his family were rejected by Bataan voters? In fact, the Gonzaleses have never won an election in Bataan. This includes him (twice), his sister and now his daughter. The Garcias don't have to cheat them. They don't have a track record of winning. Sadly, Marie even lost in their own barangay. Why can't they take this as a strong message and lesson for them never to face the judgment of the electorate again?

Bishop Soc Villegas may have meant well, but he was also used well by Ding Roman, Tong Payumo and Gonzales to save face and justify their sorry losses. But the bishop made a sweeping statement when he said that the latest elections in Bataan were the "dirtiest in history." He wasn't even in Bataan during the elections in 2004. How could he possibly make such a conclusion?

Teresita Barker is quite a character. (Letters, 5/27/07) She is obviously against the Garcias to protect her business interests. She campaigned for Ding and Marie, and much like them, she lost shamefully. If she is so embarrassed and sad for Bataan, then she better leave the place. We don't need her here.

Now is the time for unity and action. I saw the Garcias win, and my concern is for them to now live up to their campaign promises and improve the lives of the people of Bataan. Let us not listen to sore losers whose main interest is to taint the reputation of the winners and to create headaches and troubles just so they can spring back to contention in the next three years.

—DANIEL MELEGRITO,
danielmelegrito@yahoo.com.ph

Drive against militant party-list groups failed

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE ARTICLE TITLED "Admin drive vs militant party lists succeeding." (INQUIRER, 5/29/05)

First of all, the headline is not accurate. I never said that the administration's drive against Bayan Muna and other progressive parties is succeeding. On the contrary, the Arroyo administration has failed miserably in its six-year campaign to annihilate and marginalize our parties. Three of our parties—Bayan Muna, Gabriela and Anakpawis—are most likely to succeed in maintaining six seats in Congress despite the brutal campaign of extrajudicial killings, abductions, political intimidation, electoral fraud and violence being conducted by Malacañang and the military against our ranks.

While admitting that the last elections saw our toughest campaign so far, I pointed out that our good showing, despite the administration's all-out effort to dislodge us, was a feat in itself. In fact, it was noted in the news report that I "hesitated to admit" that the vilification campaign against our parties had succeeded.

Second, I would like to stress that the so-called "Admin drive" against us is not simply a vilification campaign aimed at reducing our votes. Since 2001, the Arroyo administration and its armed forces have tried to annihilate our parties altogether. At least 180 of our key leaders and supporters have been killed by suspected state security forces. Scores have been abducted and many remain missing till this day. At the same time, a legal offensive has been launched at the national and local levels; using trumped-up charges of rebellion, murder, sedition or whatever they could concoct against our members and supporters. Even our congressional representatives have not been spared from warrantless arrests, trumped-up charges and assassination threats.

Not content with its deadly campaign, Malacañang and the AFP used government funds and state machinery in the last elections to field and support its own party-list groups. Government-backed political operators were engaged in massive vote-buying, vote-padding, vote-shaving and other forms of cheating to dislodge us and undermine the party-list system as a whole.

Given this concerted, all-out effort by the executive and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to physically, legally and politically obliterate us, the performance of the progressive party lists in the recent elections was nothing short of sterling and a victory in itself. We consistently topped all surveys, raised crucial issues and campaigned effectively nationwide, and we guarded not only our votes but also those of our allies in the opposition.

Despite all odds, we are still in fighting form and ready to do battle when the next Congress opens. This is proof that the administration's campaign against us has utterly failed.

—REP. TEDDY CASIÑO,
Bayan Muna Party List

BIR clarifies collection 'shortage' Tulfo cited

THIS IS IN REPLY TO RAMON TULFO'S column titled "Why the BIR has a collection shortage." (INQUIRER, 5/29/07)

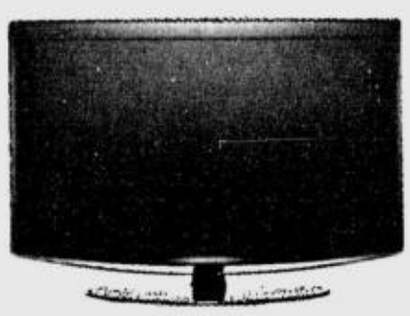
Tulfo cited an instance where a seafood restaurant located in Mandaluyong City was closed by the BIR "for non-registration of receipts. But two days later, the restaurant reopened."

The establishment was indeed closed, but it was done after BIR personnel conducted covert and overt surveillance due to the taxpayer's suspected massive underdeclaration of its sales. Proper closure proceedings were made upon the order of the commissioner of internal revenue.

Five days (not two days) after closure, the establishment owner requested the lifting of the closure order after partial payment of P1.2 million (not P8 million) representing 20 percent of the basic VAT deficiency assessment.

As to the BIR's underperformance, the bureau for the year 2006 registered a record-high collection increase in the amount of P105 billion. The amount represented a growth rate of 24 percent versus its 2005 collection—the very first time that the BIR realized such a remarkable collection performance in eight years. Again for the period January to April 2007, the BIR recorded a substantial increase in collection as against its tax take for the same period last year.

—ISIDRO T. CASALS JR.,
revenue district officer,
RDO No. 41-Mandaluyong,
Bureau of Internal Revenue



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Textbooks shot through with errors

From page A1

program, which receives funding from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

The program, among other things, calls for the construction of school buildings in all municipalities to allow universal free education, train teachers and strengthen competencies in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Filipino.

Books are updated every five years and the seven Social Studies textbooks to be used this year represent the first stage of the process. The books were supposed to have been published and distributed last school year, but protests marked the bidding and the initiative was delayed.

Around P800 million was originally earmarked to publish 17 million Social Studies textbooks up to high school in the first stage. Protests held up the rest of the project.

Losers are children

"Suppliers are like politicians; they don't want to lose," says Education Secretary Jesli Lapus. "The process gets to be protracted and the losers are the children."

The next batch of textbooks on English subjects will be distributed before the end of the school year.

The latest effort to revise learning materials came amid rising concern that the Philippine education system has not kept abreast of the demands of globalization and unhappiness over the performance of Filipino students in international competitions.

When the seven new books came out, a set was received at the Marian School gate last November with an unsigned note to Go urging him to conduct a review.

"We have seen their contents and we need your second opinion. We are clutching at straws ... Please do not disappoint us," says the anonymous note writer.

Go, who has become a devil's advocate to government functionaries and academicians with doctorates from elite schools, obliged.

Barely literate graduates

He has expressed alarm that the public school system has produced nothing more than "half-baked, barely literate graduates."

Go has made improving education his advocacy. He has spent more than P800,000 to publish the blunders he had found in the DepEd textbooks, for which he has earned libel suits and brickbats. He shrugs them off.

In a congressional hearing called by Sen. Panfilo Lacson in January, Go detailed the "factual and conceptual" errors he had uncovered upon review of the seven books published under the $200-million Second Social Expenditure Management Project funded by the World Bank.

Over 100 errors

In at least one book for Grade 3, "Ang Bagong Pilipino" (The New Filipino) by Expectacion Castor-Gonzales and published by Daewoo International Corp. JV of South Korea and Mary Jo Publishing House Inc., Go listed more than 100 errors.

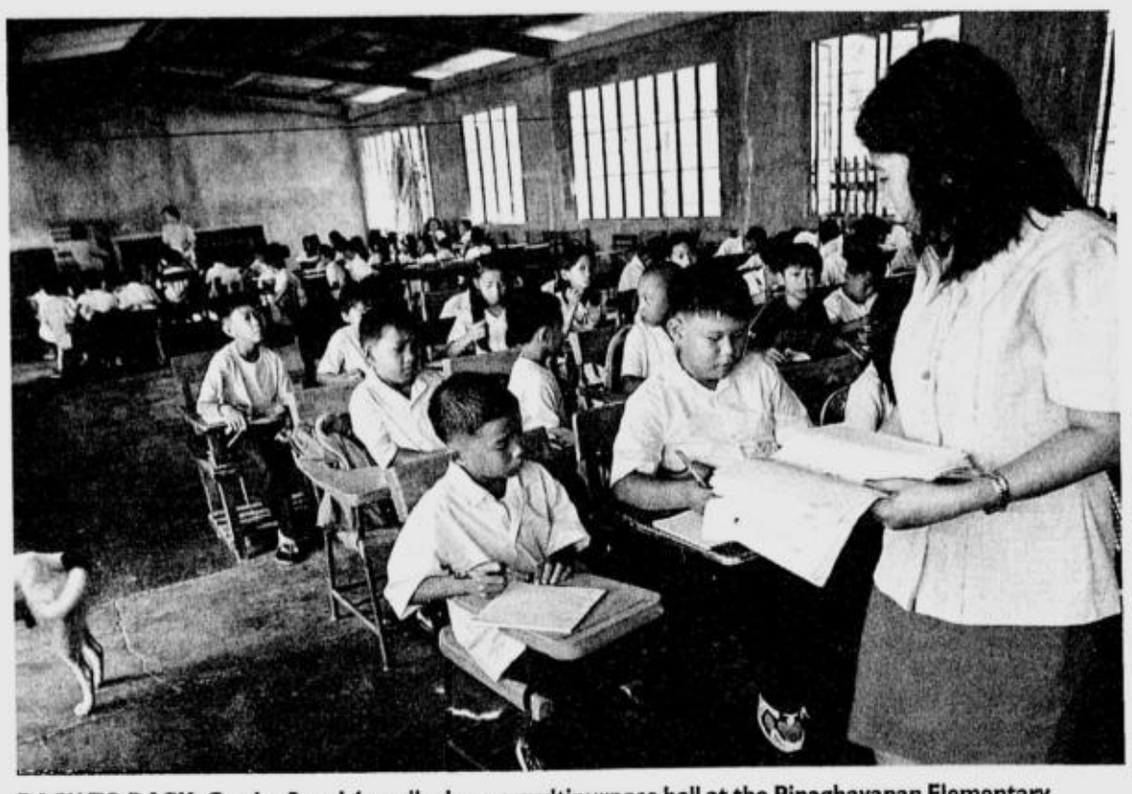
Example: *Nahiwalay ang Pilipinas sa Asya at naging pulu-pulo nang lumubog ang mga tulay na lupa sa pagkatunaw ng yelo noong Panahon ng Yelo* (The Philippines separated from Asia and became an archipelago when the land bridges were submerged as a result of the melting of the ice during the Ice Age.)

Webster says Ice Age refers to "a time of widespread glaciation." It was freezing then. Global warming was not yet in the lexicon of the era.

The seven books had supposedly gone through a four-stage evaluation by a panel that included academics from topnotch schools.

Money-making

During the Senate inquiry, claims of irregularities in the bidding and the textbook procurement program were aired. However, there has been no resolution to the allegations.



BACK TO BACK. Grades 3 and 4 pupils share a multipurpose hall at the Pinagbayanan Elementary School in Taysan, Batangas. On May 15, armed men set classrooms at the school on fire as votes were being canvassed, killing a teacher and a poll watcher. RAFFY LERMA

Lacson himself says some congressmen have used hearings as money-making propositions, threatening to call inquiries and then dropping them off after receiving payoffs from publishers. However, he did not name them.

"It's an unending cacophony. It's all noise. We're not doing anything about it," says Go. "Delegations of congressmen come here. Nothing has happened after the photo ops."

One good thing came out of the January hearing. Following Go's exposé, the DepEd again had the newly issued books reviewed by its staff and academicians.

Invited by the department to discuss the purported blunders, Go declined and told Undersecretary Franklin Sunga that unless independent observers were present, he would not participate. He never heard again from Sunga.

The DepEd told the INQUIRER on May 17 that the panel had again reviewed the seven books after the Lacson hearing and found the percentage of "correctness" of each of them ranged from 90 to 99.48.

"Ang Bagong Pilipino" rated 89.95-93.97 percent. The errors were 9 conceptual, 20 factual and 47 language and others which were unspecified.

Correction leaflets

DepEd officials say leaflets containing the corrections have been published and are being distributed to teachers. They are hoping that the errata leaflets will reach all schools before classes open.

Edita A. Tan, a University of the Philippines-Diliman professor emeritus, laments that the DepEd has not developed a credible program for improving the quality of textbooks.

"Apparently, education majors instead of field specialists write the textbooks. I suggest that the DepEd launch a program for reviewing each textbook in elementary and high school and have experts in each field to write new ones," she says.

"The education people should help in adapting the language to the various grade levels. They should not be the ones to write Math, Science, Social Studies, History and English as they have no expertise in these subjects," Tan says.

"There are allegations that the textbook department in the DepEd works with writers for monopolizing the production of textbooks. There is money in this business. Textbooks are quite expensive despite their poor content and poor printing quality," she adds.

"Elementary and high schools, public as well as private, do not provide libraries and laboratory facilities. How can our students learn if they do not have books to read and laboratories to experiment in?" she says.

Lapses acknowledged

Executive Director Socorro Pilor of the DepEd's Instructional Materials Council Secretariat acknowledges lapses in the textbooks in spite of the department's efforts to tighten evaluation procedures.

"They were not too sharp or meticulous, or perhaps the time given to evaluators was not enough," Pilor says. On the whole, she says "the books are still useful."

She also outlined plans to mobilize professionals from UP and Ateneo to be involved in the evaluation and review processes in English textbooks.

With Go's exposés, however, she says the experts from the elite schools seemed a little gun shy for fear of being embarrassed. "It makes it doubly difficult to choose the better reviewers," says Pilor.

Heads will roll

Secretary Lapus says the DepEd is introducing more innovations in the bidding process in an effort to eliminate flaws in textbooks.

"Heads will roll," he says of those whose books are found to be flawed. "They will no longer be eligible ... we will never use them again."

Lapus took over as President Macapagal-Arroyo's fifth education secretary. A former banker and congressman, he has a reputation as a crisis manager. He welcomes criticism of the department and is determined to push through education reforms.

Go suggests: "Pay good evaluators so the books come out right. Teach what is right. The abysmal quality of our textbooks is the root cause of the deterioration of our education system. When we teach wrong concepts, they are perpetuated."

Zubiri cuts Pimentel lead by 64,248

From page A1

Edgardo Angara and Joker Arroyo.

Left out were GO's former Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV, who has consistently occupied the 11th slot, and Pimentel, who was hanging on to the last spot in the Magic 12 as of yesterday's tally.

Sen. Ralph Recto of TU yesterday conceded defeat in the senatorial race. *(See story on Page A4.)*

But Trillanes, one of the leaders of the Oakwood mutiny in 2003, yesterday declared himself a winner, saying the only way he could be dislodged from the Magic 12 was if he was cheated by the Arroyo administration.

He warned that the cheaters would have to reckon with the people who, he said, would "not tolerate" it.

Trillanes insisted that based on election returns the GO had in its possession, he and Pimentel would make it to the last two spots of the winning circle.

He claimed that he was cheated of around one million votes, otherwise he should be at No. 8 or No. 9.

Deception

Trillanes said the pronouncements of Palace officials the other day that they expected Zubiri and Recto to take the last two spots were nothing but an "outright lie" and "deception."

"Because they (Palace officials) know that even if they counted, or they canvassed these provinces, they still fall short. So they are just biding time, maybe looking for some room to maneuver but we already know the results and the people I believe already know the results," Trillanes told reporters from his detention cell at the Marine facility in Fort Bonifacio.

"Right now, we're focused in guarding our votes and preparing in case some magic or some miracle happens," he said.

GO lead counsel Sixto Brillantes said the opposition would be very happy for the partial proclamation. "We expect the subsequent proclamation within the next two days after [Wednesday]."

Ease tension

He said the partial proclamation would finally ease the tension that has gripped the 10 winning candidates since the canvassing started on May 16.

For her part, lawyer Leila de Lima said the opposition was confident that Trillanes would hang on to his slot even as 1.2 million votes from four Mindanao provinces considered administration bailiwicks, have yet to be accounted for by the Comelec.

"Trillanes is safe already but we are not sure with Koko (Pimentel)," De Lima told the INQUIRER yesterday.

But she said Pimentel could still clinch the 12th place and give GO an 8-2-2 standing to the very end "barring major surprises" from the certificates of canvass (CoCs) from Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Surigao del Norte and Maguindanao.

Lanao del Norte

The Lanao del Norte tally (5-6-1 in favor of TU) placed Zubiri at the forefront with 157,303 votes, compared with Pimentel's 105,014 votes, which kept him on the last slot.

In the Sultan Kudarat CoC (8-3-1 for GO), Zubiri landed three slots higher than Pimentel at No. 8 with a slim margin of 8,097 votes. But in the overall tally, Pimentel was still ahead of Zubiri.

However, the scandal-tainted Maguindanao CoC, accounting for more than 300,000 votes, might be crucial in determining who will claim the last slot.

Abalos said that if the 12th placer failed to widen its lead by at least 400,000 even as votes from Basilan, Lanao del Sur and Surigao del Norte came in by Wednesday, "we will have to reckon with Maguindanao."

The special board of canvassers created by the NBC to retabulate the Maguindanao CoC failed to proceed with the recanvassing yesterday in the absence of municipal CoCs. The Maguindanao CoC is believed to be based on ballots filled out by teachers under duress with names of TU candidates.

GO lawyers pleaded with the special board to finally set aside the controversial CoC so that they could "move on with our lives and go back to our regular work."

The recanvassing, the lawyers said, should be terminated because the members of the 22 municipal board of canvassers have been given almost more than a week to provide the special provincial board with the pertinent documents.

The NBC has temporarily adjourned until Wednesday 3 p.m., when CoCs from Surigao del Norte and Basilan are expected to arrive.

Viagra-fed oysters arouse international interest

From page A1

George May said he had combined the natural qualities of the oyster, known for arousing sexual desire, with the best modern pharmaceutical equivalent to create a potentially multimillion-dollar market.

"First of all, oysters are the greatest natural aphrodisiac; second, you lace it with Viagra, and third, it's a laugh," the 59-year-old farmer told Agence France Presse on Monday.

But May, a successful Sydney marketing executive until he was diagnosed with prostate cancer late in 2006, will not be allowed to sell his oysters in Australia because that would contravene strict regulations.

And he has been ordered by pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, which produces Viagra, to stop using the name of its most famous product in his marketing.

Even so, May said neither of these obstacles would stop him from exporting his specially prepared Sydney Rock Oysters around the world.

Pfizer reacts

"No one can stop me from feeding Viagra to my oysters. The reason that Pfizer is jumping up and down is that I used the name Viagra," he said.

"I'm getting calls from Macau, Hong Kong, Moscow ... I'm getting calls from all over the bloody world."

May, a self-described "marketing genius" from Scotland, said the idea came to him after he started "hanging around with the boys" in a small fishing village north of Sydney where he retired following prostate surgery last December.

Patent

His doctor had prescribed a small daily dose of Viagra to help his recovery and it occurred to May he should be feeding the drug to oysters to help the local farmers, many of whom had been struggling after a disease swept through their crops.

May said he told the farmers: "I'm going to feed them Viagra and zinc and every other aphrodisiac I can find." He has since patented the idea of feeding the oysters Viagra, magnesium, zinc and sea grass among other things after the shellfish have gone through the normal purification process.

"They are all being really well-looked after because they are in beautiful filtered water and we're actually feeding them vitamins and minerals," May said. "We're getting a bigger oyster."

May now has some 10 million oysters in cultivation. According to him, he eats one to two dozen oysters each day without any ill effect. "I swear to God. They work," he said.

A spokesperson for Pfizer said the drug company was concerned about the use of its brand name. "It's a very ordinary trademark issue," he said. *AFP*

Beltran rejoins lawmakers at Batasan

From page A1

from detention at the Philippine Heart Center was merely temporary.

Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Elmo Alameda allowed him to attend the last three session days of the 13th Congress and the House Centennial Session on Thursday, following the Supreme Court's decision ordering the lower court to dismiss the rebellion charges against him.

Still a detainee

The high tribunal's decision also covered party-list lawmakers Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño, Liza Maza, Joel Virador and Rafael Mariano—collectively called the "Batasan 5."

"Until the Makati RTC issues an order implementing the Supreme Court decision, I remain a political detainee," Beltran said in his speech.

Ocampo said Beltran's camp was looking at an "alternative action" of going directly to the high court to seek Beltran's outright release.

Beltran arrived at the Batasan Complex at around 3 p.m. and was ushered into the clinic for routine checkup.

Unpaid hospital bills

His wife said the family was concerned about his unpaid hospital bill of at least P688,000. He said a number of lawmakers had promised to help raise funds for the unpaid bill.

Beltran cited his inability to perform his legislative functions and campaign for his party in the recent elections as a result of his detention. So far, in the official tally, his group appears sure of retaining at least one congressional seat.

Beltran sounded particularly disappointed that his bill seeking a P125 across-the-board wage increase had been shelved without his participation.

A gift to the people

"We all know that the Arroyo government is boasting of the so-called improvement in the economy in the past few months," he said. "I won't scrutinize data on inflation, peso-dollar exchange, GNP, GDP and others. The only question of this representative is—do our people experience this so-called development?"

Beltran said that even the police officers guarding him at the hospital often complained about the tough life under the present administration.

He urged the House to push the passage of the wage bill, if only as a "gift by the 13th Congress to the Filipino people."

Arroyo responsibility

"If Ms Arroyo wants to veto this bill," he said, "then let her bear the responsibility of telling the people and the workers that she doesn't want to raise their salary."

In an interview with reporters, Beltran's daughter, Ofelia Beltran-Balleta, said her family was seeking damages corresponding to his father's hospital bills and including moral damages worth P1 million for every month his father was under hospital arrest.

Beltran was under hospital arrest for 15 months owing to heart problems.

Alameda order

"He is innocent and should not have been arrested," Balleta said in Filipino.

She said family lawyer Romeo Capulong would ask the Supreme Court to make its decision final and executory.

"We will not stop until my father is totally released," she stressed.

In a June 1 order, Judge Alameda granted Beltran's request to go to the Batasang Pambansa from 3 to 7 p.m. on June 4, 5 and 6.

He was also allowed to attend the House Centennial Celebration from 1 to 8 p.m. on June 7.

Escorts for Ka Bel

Alameda asked the Philippine National Police to deploy enough escorts to accompany Beltran to the Batasan complex and back.

He noted that the militant lawmaker had "faithfully complied" with the conditions set during previous occasions, and showed his "commitment to submit himself to legal processes." *With reports from Alcuin Papa, DJ Yap and Faith Alayon*

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There's always next time, NPA says of failed ambush on landlord

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—COMMUNIST REBELS ON SUNday claimed responsibility for the May 30 ambush on a mayor-elect involved in a simmering land dispute with farmers in Pulupandan, Negros Occidental.

"The NPA ... will not stop until revolutionary justice will be served on Magdaleno Peña. If not now, there is always a next time," the New People's Army-Boy Gatmaitan Command (NPA-BGC) said in a statement.

When reached for comment, Peña, a lawyer, described the statement as hogwash. The statement was issued by the rebel group's spokesperson Bayani Obrero and sent to local media offices by the communist-led National Democratic Front in Negros.

"All those statements were prepared by Samson Mondia and his leftist family to mislead the investigation," he said. "That makes Samson a deputy of the NPA."

Peña defeated Mondia in the mayoral race in Pulupandan.

Mondia denied the allegation. "My family has no connection with the leftists. The best thing to do is to authenticate whether the statement came from the NPA or not," he said.

Casualties

The ambush in Pulupandan's Zone 4 resulted in the death of Peña's driver and bodyguard, and injuries to three others, including his nephew Gerany Suatengco. Peña suffered minor wounds from glass and metal shards.

Obrero said "revolutionary justice" against Peña "has been strongly demanded by the people because of the grave crimes he committed since the 1980s."

He accused the mayor-elect of land grabbing in Barangay Inolingan, Moises Padilla town, using security guards and Army soldiers.

Peña denied the charge, saying the people were working on the land owned by his grandmother. He said he had agreed with them to give them fertilizer in exchange for rental of the land.

Displaced

According to Mondia, those that the mayor-elect displaced were the financiers to whom the farmers, who are land reform beneficiaries, had mortgaged their land. These financiers would have ended up the owners of the property because they were charging exorbitant interest rates, he added.

Obrero also linked Peña to the death of farm workers in Hacienda Montilla, Pulupandan town who were organizing a protest against Peña, organizers and leaders of peasant, fishermen and youth organizations in Valladolid town, former Pulupandan Mayor Kenny Fernandez and former Pulupandan police chief Lt. Romeo Soralio.

Obrero named a certain Bebot Miravalles and Ernesto "Boy" Betia, who are alleged mercenaries, as those involved in the Valladolid killings, which Peña denied.

All poll fraud plotted in Manila, says noted scholar

COTABATO CITY—ELECTORAL fraud in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao starts with plotting in Manila, according to a respected Muslim scholar and former congressman.

In a dissertation entitled "Miseducation of Muslim-Moro on Electoralism," former congressman Michael Mastura said operators of fraud flock to the ARMM during election season and there, carry out their plots.

The ARMM has earned the moniker cheating capital of the Philippines as a result of reports that it is from the area that candidates for national positions, such as Senate seats, derive the votes they need through fraud to win.

Mastura said there is no one to blame but the government.

"It takes a lot more logic (not magic) since the task of solving deficiencies in the election process falls on the state," he said in his treatise.

'Cycle of anomalies'

He said electoral fraud in the Philippines is "a cycle of anomalies derived from deferred electoralism ... an outgrowth of its very predatory nature (involving) inelectable party operators, senatorial tail-enders and inept election officers (who) all prey on swing-vote areas of the Bangsamoro people."

The image of the Commission on Elections, he said, has never been as tarnished as it is now under the leadership of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos.

It became worse when the so-called Hello Garci scandal surfaced, exposing an alleged plot to ensure that President Macapagal-Arroyo kept a million vote advantage over the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 presidential elections.

The plot was denied.

Mastura, a descendant of Moro hero Sultan Kudarat, said today's democracy favored the elite more than the poor who compose the larger majority of the population.

Politicians

"(This is) a government of politicians but not of good men," he said.

He quoted reports from the 21-member observer team of the Asian Network for Free Elections (Anfrel) on "ineffectual ballot secrecy" that facilitated massive vote-buying.

He said this was a clear indication of "money power politics."

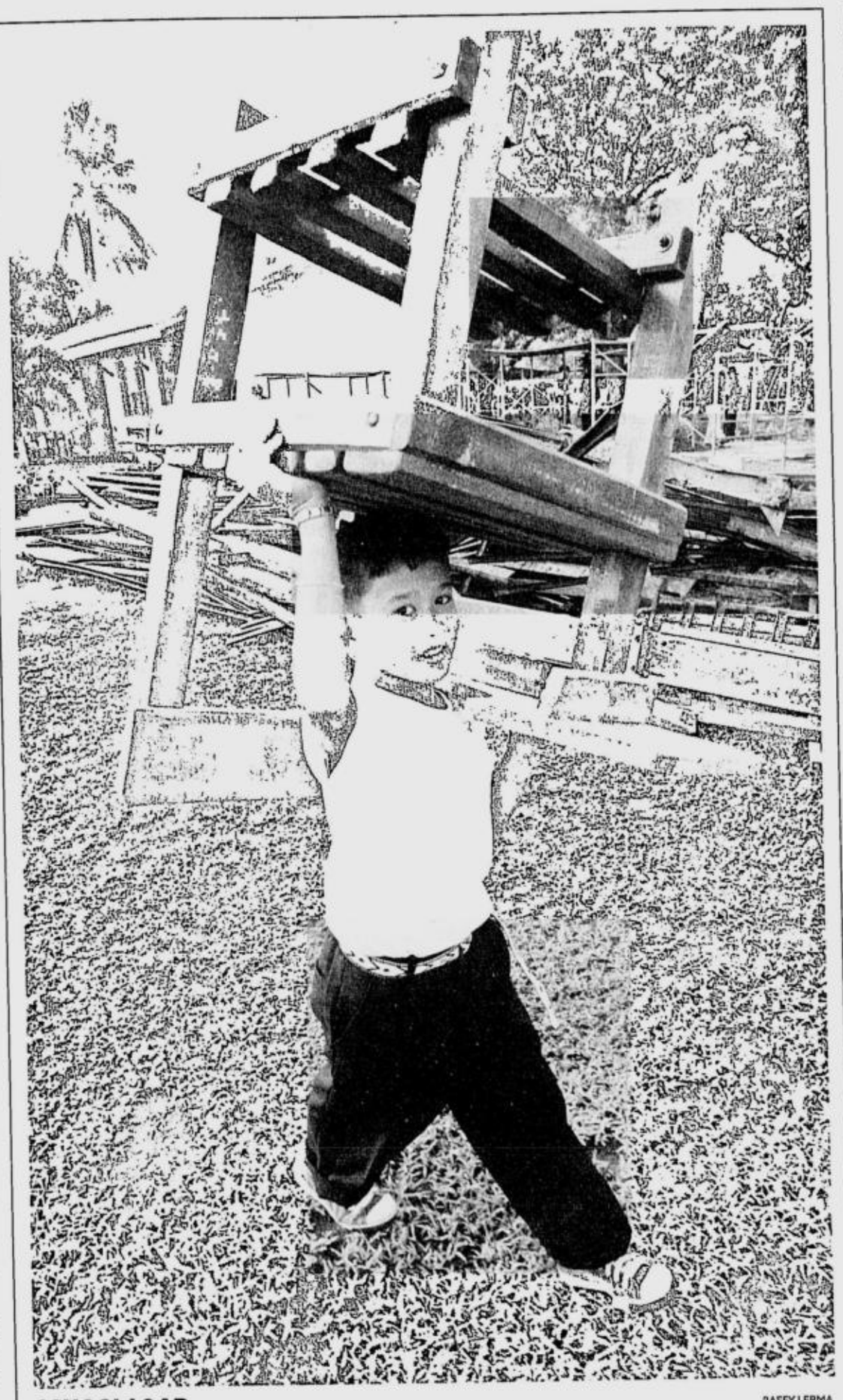
He echoed the late Commissioner Haydee Yorac's question: "Does Muslim Mindanao deserve elections?" as she expressed frustration over clan politics of the late Lanao del Sur strongman Ali Dimaporo.

Even local government units were not spared from Mastura's treatise when he branded its internal revenue allotments (IRA) as a "national style of making politics perpetuate the dirty and dishonest electoralism."

"The consequences are disgraceful and cause disservice to the whole country," he said.

He said he agreed that any electoral fraud in the country emanates from the National Capital Region.

"Obviously, poll-rigging schemes are mainly plotted in Manila," Mastura said, quoting Muslim lawyer Mejol Sadain, who once served as Comelec commissioner. *Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*



RAFFY LERMA

SCHOOL LOAD
An elementary school pupil in Taysan, Batangas carries his own chair to class as several of his classmates also did to cope with lack of facilities at the Pinagbayanan Elementary School that was torched at the height of elections recently.

Benguet ready for war on chemical pesticides

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE province will not hesitate to declare war against highly toxic farm chemicals should the results of a study among farmers show that constant exposure to pesticides have placed their health in peril, Mayor Nestor Fongwan said.

Fongwan, Benguet's newly elected governor, said the province at this time must be ready to adopt stricter measures on the sale and distribution of commercial farm inputs.

He said his administration is determined to protect the safety of Benguet's vegetable farms and water resources.

A good move, he said, is to impose a ban on chemicals that have not been certified as safe by the Fertilizer and Pesticides Authority (FPA).

But the formulation of a policy against farm chemicals would depend on the findings of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the University of the Philippines Manila, which conducted a study on farmers in the province, Fongwan said.

In May, the two institutions conducted physical, medical and blood examinations on farmers and cut flower growers from this town, Atok, Kapangan, Mankayan, Buguias and Itogon.

The tests aimed to determine the level of pesticide toxicity among the farmers.

By the end of the month, the study would also subject to laboratory analyses soil and water samples from various villages.

Fongwan said the results of the study would provide the information needed to come up with a comprehensive geographic information system for pesticide exposure and health status among vegetable farmers.

Dr. Jinky Leilanie Lu, the project's coordinator, said the study aimed to correlate the blood test results with the farmers' agricultural practices to come up with a comprehensive medical and physical profile among the farmers.

The blood tests included looking into the kidney and liver conditions of the farmers.

"The kidneys filter the blood and tend to be damaged with a certain level of concentration of toxic matters," Lu told reporters here.

Fongwan said should the results show a strong negative impact of pesticide use, then the province must be willing to take drastic moves to protect the farmers and the environment.

Banning the sale of highly toxic chemicals in Benguet would be an option, he said.

In March, this town's agriculture office started a crackdown on chemical company sales agents who sell pesticides that were not FPA-certified. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Poor meet school needs through 'ukay-ukay'

ZAMBOANGA CITY—WITH HER meager income as an employee in one of the private firms here, Helen Fermin has to find ways to buy new school uniforms for her four children.

In a department store, a white polo uniform will cost her at least P135, while a pair of black shoes is about P450.

"I have to make ends meet. We don't earn enough," Fermin said.

Her husband Leo works as a delivery truck man for a pharmaceutical company.

Thanks to the *ukay-ukay* stalls at the Sta. Cruz Market here, Fermin's budget was able to buy four pieces of white shirt at P65 each and two pairs of shoes for P300.

"We should be wise nowadays when prices of goods are too high. The shirts should just be soaked in soap and it's good for uniform," Fermin said.

Like Fermin, Marietta Amisola, a schoolteacher, also rummages through the *ukay-ukay* shops for uniform.

"If I buy brand new items, it will be very expensive. It's better to buy *ukay-ukay*, the quality is good and it's cheap," Amisola said.

Mimi Sabdani, an *ukay-ukay* shop owner at the Santa Cruz Market, said mothers have been going to their shops since last month.

These mothers, she said, look for white polo, black or blue pants, socks and shoes.

Sabdani said she had to order two bales of *ukay-ukay* from Malaysia.

A bale of relief goods costs about P10,000.

Sabdani sells white shirts at P50 to P75.

"They can even haggle," she said.

Dr. Ederlinda Fernandez, head of the Western Mindanao State University Masteral Research Department and a member of the Women's Crisis Center, said even with the peso becoming stronger, "our women still feel the brunt of the economic crisis." *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Antique gov seeks sacking of entire board of canvass

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—ANTIQUE GOV. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez sought the relief of the provincial board of canvassers (PBOC) for failing to proclaim the winning candidates in the province despite a resolution of the Commission on Elections.

Perez said the three-member board, headed by lawyer Gil Barcenal, should abide by the resolution issued by the Comelec, which said there was no basis for suspending the canvassing and the proclamation of the winning gubernatorial candidate in Antique.

"The delay is taking too long. They should implement the resolution," Perez told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

In a resolution promulgated on May 28, the Comelec's Second Division dismissed the petition filed by former assemblyman Arturo Pacificador to suspend the canvassing of votes for the position of governor and the suspension of the proclamation of Perez.

The resolution—signed by Commissioners Florentino Tuason Jr., Rene Sarmiento and Nicodemo Ferrer—said there was "no overwhelming need" to suspend the canvassing of votes and proclamation of the winning candidate.

Winners

Based on election returns from the province's 18 municipalities, Perez had topped the gubernatorial race with 68,867 votes against Pacificador who got 55,502 votes and Jovito Plameras who garnered 54,062 votes.

Pacificador had asked the Comelec to suspend the canvassing of votes for governor and the proclamation until pending disqualification cases against Perez and Plameras are resolved.

He also alleged that irregularities were committed during the elections favoring Perez.

In its resolution, the Comelec's Second Division pointed out that, under Resolution No. 8062, there should be no suspension of proclamation of winning candidates with pending disqualification cases and issues of citizenship, among others.

It said the Comelec should guard against "proclamation grabbing and excessive delay in proclamation, as they are equally evil."

Antique is the only province in Western Visayas whose winning candidates have not been proclaimed, three weeks after the elections.

Insult

Perez decried how their scheduled proclamation last Friday was called off after she, along with the candidates for provincial board, were told to the attend the session of the PBOC for their supposed proclamation.

"It was humiliating and a big insult to all of us and to the electorate," said Perez.

Comelec regional director Renato Magbutay justified the suspension of the proclamation because Pacificador still has a pending pre-proclamation protest that has yet to be resolved by the Comelec.

"The commission en banc may decide on it this week. Until then, the canvassing and proclamation should is suspended because the Second Division's resolution only covered one of two petitions filed by Pacificador," Magbutay said in a telephone interview.

Pacificador filed the pre-proclamation protest, alleging that votes for governor were "padded and tampered," days after the elections.

He said he would contest the resolution of the Comelec second division before the Supreme Court.

Church, lay people urge Comelec to keep Lanao Norte count fair

ILIGAN CITY—CIVIL SOCIETY and religious leaders in Lanao del Norte appealed to the Commission on Elections to ensure that fairness prevailed in the congressional race of the first district.

In a manifesto, the Movement for Truth, Justice and Peace asked the Comelec en banc "to proclaim our representative that is truly chosen by the electorate of Iligan and Lanao del Norte as reflected in the authentic copies of CoCs ..."

The group was organized as an offshoot of the controversy that erupted last week over the decision by the provincial board of canvassers (PBOC) to enter into the official count figures contained in three tampered certificates of canvass (CoCs) from the towns of Maigo, Kauswagan and Bacolod.

Among its convenors is lawyer Leo Zaragoza, one of the losing congressional candidates who was the first to denounce the PBOC decision on Friday, the INQUIRER learned.

On Saturday afternoon, the group led a prayer rally at the cathedral attended by thousands of people. The protest actions have been going on daily since then.

The group said the PBOC proceeded with crediting the vote figures from the three towns in the official count "in spite of vehement protests that the tampered CoCs should not be used for the canvassing ..."

"This created an atmosphere of doubt, uncertainty and anger in the minds of the people of the first district," the group said.

Msgr. Jemar Vera Cruz, vicar-general of the Iligan Diocese, said that "in the interest of justice and truth," the PBOC must rely on the authentic copies of the CoCs.

The move to canvass the tampered CoCs may have its legal basis, "but it is definitely not moral," said Vera Cruz.

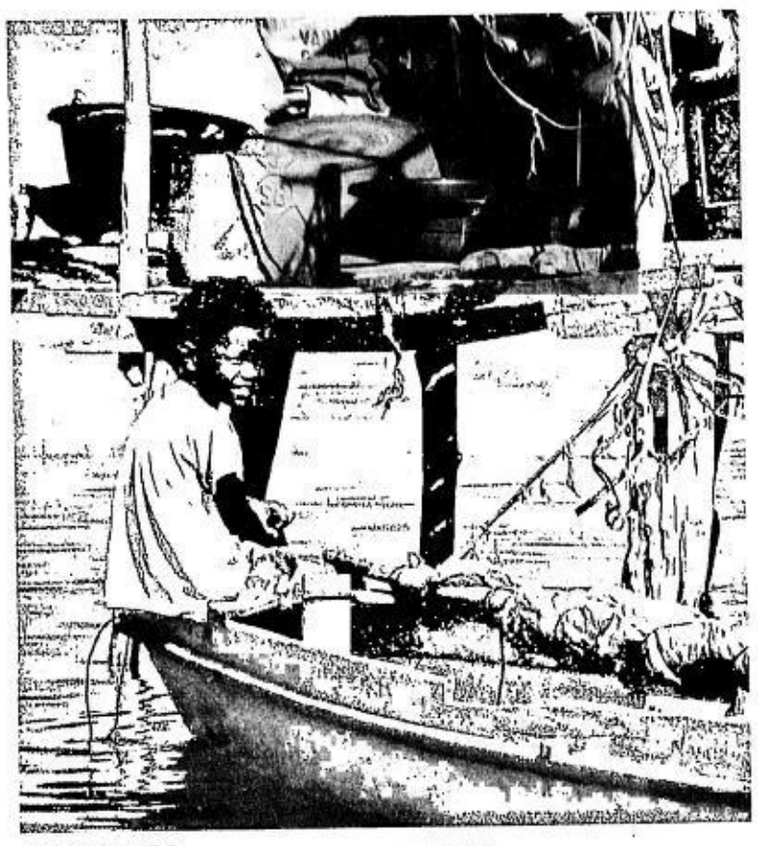
"The best thing to do is follow what is moral," he said.

The figures in the tampered CoCs were widely different from those reflected in the copies of both the Liberal Party and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting-National Citizens Movement for Free Elections.

A comparison of figures between the tampered and authentic copies in all three towns would show that the vote tally for outgoing Gov. Imelda Dimaporo of Lakas-CMD jumped by 218 percent while that for Angelique Badelles was reduced by 84 percent and Councilor Vicente Belmonte, by 89 percent.

Votes for Dimaporo increased from 8,253 to 26,213, an addition of 17,960, while votes for Belmonte were reduced from 7,149 to 815. Votes for Badelles went down from 7,285 to 1,185.

Inquirer Mindanao



LIFE AT SEA JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

A boy spends most of his time at sea off Pangapuyan Island during the long school holiday.

Gunmen snatch 3 grocery store owners in Laguna

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—THREE members of a Chinese family were snatched by armed men and released hours later in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, police said yesterday.

The report came three days after police rescued a kidnap victim from her captors in Nagcarlan, Laguna.

The three Chinese—Jeffrey Wong, 19; his elder brother Joshua, 22; and their father, whose first name was not immediately known—were taken by armed men who introduced themselves as immigration and police officers.

Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., provincial police director, said the three, who own a grocery store in Sta. Cruz, were released in front of their grocery store at around 5 a.m. Monday.

The victims, however, refused to talk with police investigators, Rojas said.

"We were just informed that the three were safely released and are now back with their family. It was still unclear if they paid ransom or if they had arrangement with their abductors," he said in a mobile phone interview.

But Rojas said the gunmen took P100,000 from the grocery store on Regidor Street, Barangay 5.

Rojas said the Wongs were busy attending to customers at their shop when eight unidentified men alighted from two vehicles and entered at around 5:15 p.m. on Sunday.

He said the armed men introduced themselves as agents of the Bureau of Immigration and the Philippine National Police.

They seized the victims and forced them into a waiting van. They did not say why and where they were taking them.

The group sped toward Pila town.

Rojas said witnesses told police investigators that one of the vehicles used by the armed men was a gray Honda Civic (UUV 355). The other vehicle was a green Mitsubishi L-300 with unknown license plate, he said.

Rojas said police were checking with the BI if it had an operation in the area.

Relatives of the victims have yet to receive a call from the abductors.

On Thursday, members of the Regional Special Operations Group freed a businesswoman from her kidnappers in a rescue operation that led to a 20-minute gun battle.

Two of the alleged kidnappers, including the suspected leader, were killed in the shootout while two others were arrested in a follow-up operation. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

NPA, Army clashes continue in Masbate

LEGAZPI CITY—CLASHES BETWEEN GOVernment soldiers and communist guerrillas continued in Masbate with the military claiming several guerrillas killed and one soldier wounded.

Members of the 9th Infantry Battalion's Reconnaissance Company led by SSgt. Joel Fabon faced off with about 60 rebels in Barangay Boca Engaño in Claveria town, a military report said.

The hour-long fight resulted in the wounding of Pfc. Resurrecion Gernale and an undetermined number of rebel casualties, the report added.

Gernale was brought to the Claveria District Hospital.

An M-16 rifle was recovered from the encounter.

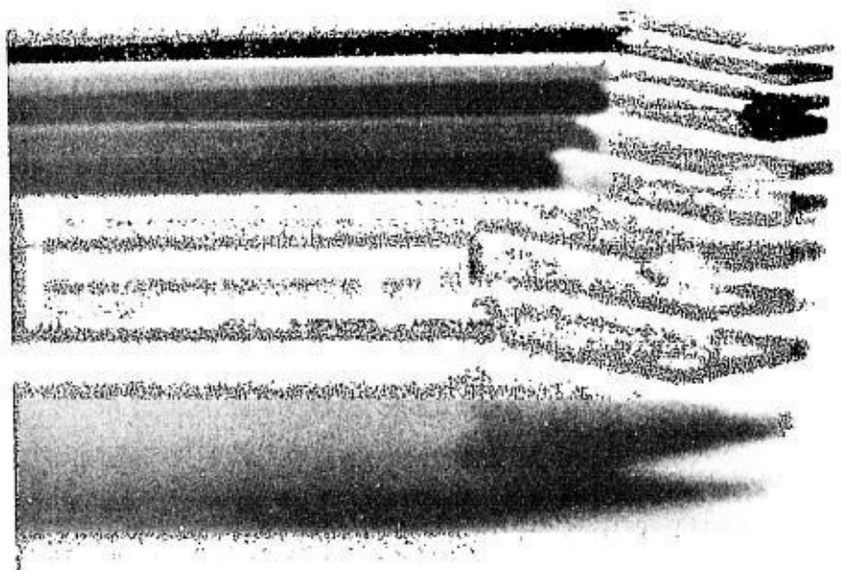
The rebels were able to escape, the report said.

According to the Armed Forces' Civil Relations Unit based in Camp Gen. Simeon Ola here, 14 encounters with the NPA have been reported in Bicol since May 10, six of them in Masbate alone.

The last recorded encounter occurred in Catanduanes on May 30. NPA rebels fought with members of the Police Provincial Mobile Group in Barangay Cagdaraw in Panganiban town.

Jaymie Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Follow the Leader



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Bangkok's river offers hope for the Pasig

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

BANGKOK, THAILAND—JUST LIKE METRO MANILA, A long river winds through this crowded city. The difference is the Chaophraya River here is clean and a favorite of river cruisers, while the Pasig remains, well, simply dirty.

It is not the ideal and some of the Pasig's arteries are murky and smelly, according to an environmentalist here.

In contrast, the 365-km Chaophraya River is clearer with no garbage floating on it.

Saying he had been to Metro Manila, Thailand's Environment Minister Kasem Snidvongs, however, said there was still hope for the Pasig.

Large ferries teeming with tourists are a common sight on the Chaophraya. City tours always include a river cruise. Some boats even serve dinner on board. There are smaller ferries that solely transport passengers across the waterway.

Unlike the Pasig, the children do not swim among plastic and other refuse.

Snidvongs, who spoke at an international environment forum here, said Thailand had implemented stricter laws against the dumping of garbage in the river.

He said they were also promoting organic farming so that chemicals and other pollutants would not wash off into the river from the farmlands.

Alternate mode of transport

Sustaining the river, he said, was important as it provided an alternate mode of transport in a city where, just as in Metro Manila, the streets are usually jammed with traffic.

United Nations Environment Programme regional director for Asia and the Pacific Surendra Shrestra also is not giving up on the Pasig.

"It is still possible," he said when asked if the Pasig had a chance.

"The government should stop the pollution to give the river time to cleanse itself," he said.

He said pollution usually came from the effluents factories and riverbank residents dump in the river, unaware of the need to manage their waste properly.

The Philippines has laws protecting the river but, he said, it is important to enforce these, which obviously is not happening.

Not yet enough

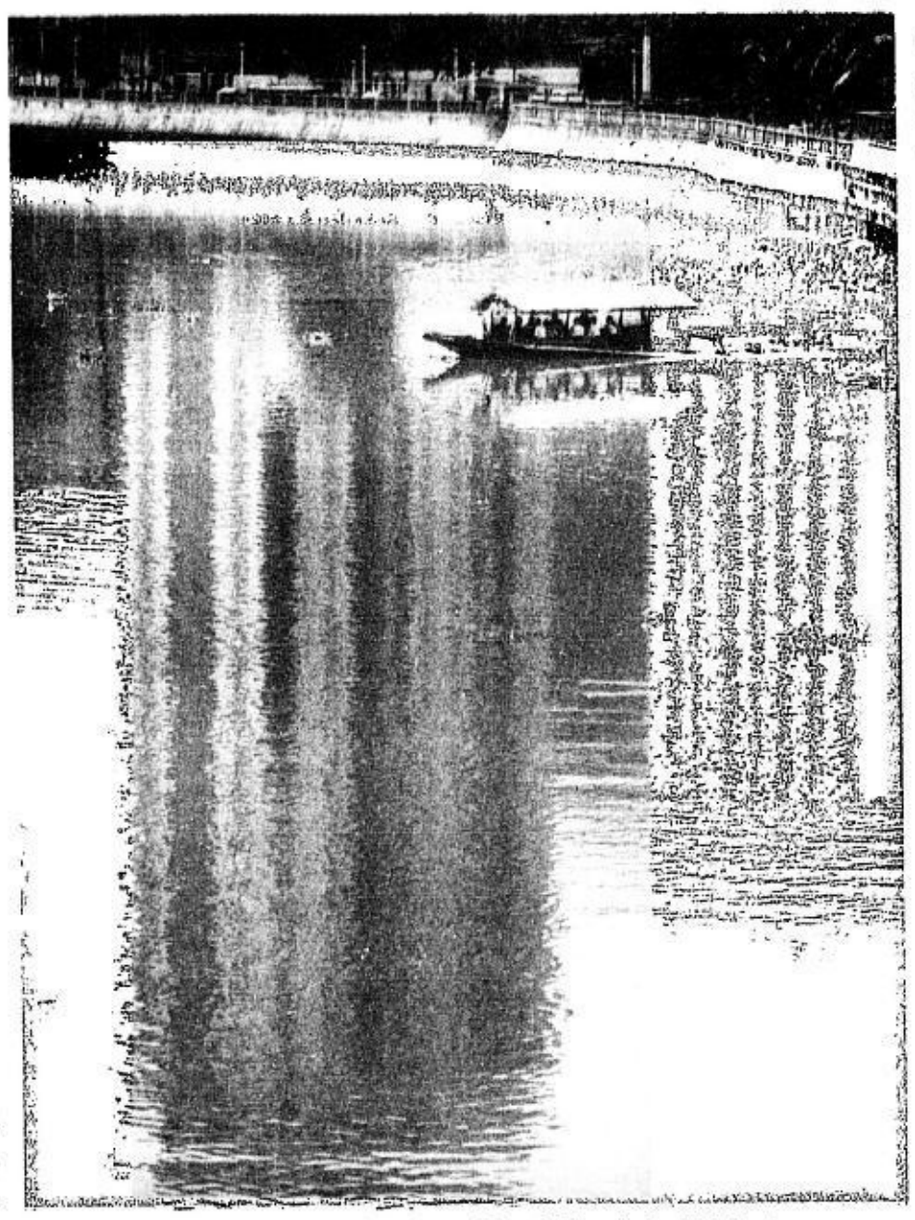
While the Thai government has put up treatment facilities to ensure the cleanliness of the wastewater that is released to the river, Shrestra said efforts to attain the ideal state for the Chaophraya River were not yet enough.

It is a good start, however, for Mahidol University vice president Chalermchai Chaikittiporn who said water quality in the Chaophraya was "getting better and better."

"It was quite dirty 15 years ago because of the number of factories. It is important to create awareness among the people. Nongovernment organizations here play an important role," Chaikittiporn said.

He represented Mahidol University in the week-long forum sponsored by multinational company Bayer, which manufactures medicine and pesticides.

The forum, which brought together 27 students from nine countries, including the Philippines, focused on water sustainability. The delegates visited hydroelectric dams in the province of Kanchanaburi, some three hours away from Bangkok, where they underwent training in water conservation.



THE PASIG RIVER, unlike the Chaophraya River in Bangkok which has been cleaned up, remains to be little more than Metro Manila's "toilet bowl." RAFFY LERMA

At the same time, Shrestra pointed out that about 60 percent of the water that flows from reservoirs to consumers in many countries, including the Philippines, was lost in transmission, warning that the problem, left unchecked, would put water supplies in a world already threatened by climate change at further risk.

The solution? Shrestra said the Unep had long been proposing that countries decentralize their water supply, instead of sourcing water from a few large dams.

Recycle to maximize use

"We have the knowledge and the technology to decentralize (water supplies) so we don't have to transport the water long distances," Shrestra said.

He said smaller communities could accumulate rainwater and moisture, store it and then recycle it to maximize its use.

There are several large dams in Thailand, just like the Philippines, not only to supply water but to generate electricity.

It would be more costly to buy water from decentralized sources, but it will be more cost-efficient in the long run, Shrestra said.

He gave the example of a young local leader in China who managed to build a small water reservoir for his community and other village leaders began trooping to his city, paying dues just to study and adopt the water management plan.

Think locally

"We should get mayors to think locally, not only about centralized supply," Shrestra said.

In his speech, Shrestra warned that natural resources, specifically water, are limited and diminishing as populations continue to grow.

Stressing the need to address the problem now, he said: "Scientists have predicted that we have a generation before we reach the threshold where the natural system including the quality and quantity of water resources will cease to function and thus threaten all life itself."

He warned that river systems would soon dry up in 50 years if patterns of neglect and wasteful consumption would go on.

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BANK'S ARMORED VAN TARGET

Gang of 15 kills 2 guards in holdup try

By Julie M. Aurelio

TWO BANK GUARDS WERE KILLED WHILE FIVE PERSONS were wounded, including a 12-year-old boy, when a group of about 15 armed men tried to rob an armored van at the SM Sucat mall in Parañaque City at 12:30 p.m. yesterday.

Supt. Ronald Estilles, city police chief, said the robbers fired on the guards of Banco de Oro who were watching over the armored van which was parked outside the mall. The bank has a branch at the mall's annex building.

Estilles identified the slain guards as John Ray Awacay and Felizardo Castillo. Awacay was declared dead on arrival at the Olivares General Hospital while Castillo died while undergoing treatment.

Four other guards were wounded and taken to different hospitals for treatment. They were identified as Ronald Flores, Oscar Quibio Barbo, Ricky Magnaong and Jose Caliwan Salas Jr. Also injured was Viking Magnaye, 12, who was walking in the area when a stray bullet hit him in the right leg.

The police are still trying to determine if the robbers were able to take any money from the armored van as they immediately fled when the guards fired back at them.

They added that witnesses had identified one of the suspects, Bobby Rabia Baliber, who allegedly has standing warrants of arrest for murder and robbery cases in Parañaque City. The suspect's last known address in the city was 215 Kalamansi St., Purok 2 in Barangay BF.

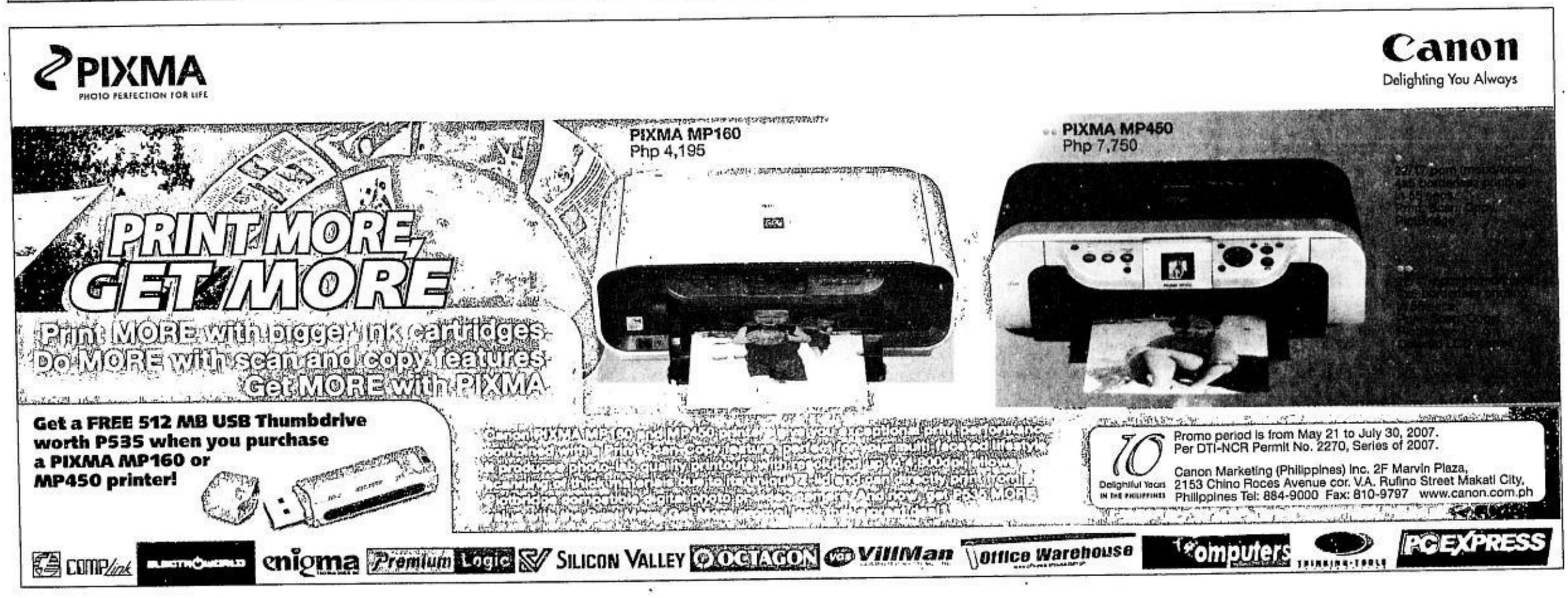
Witnesses said the unidentified armed men were seen inside the mall's annex hours before the incident. According to the police, the group was apparently keeping an eye on the bank's armored car, which was parked in the mall's parking lot.

Initial investigation revealed that the robbers carried M-16 and Armalite rifles, as well as 9-mm pistols, as shown by the spent shells that were recovered at the parking lot after the incident.

The armed men arrived at the mall on board two Toyota Corollas, a red car with plate number TNK 405 and a gray vehicle (TKN 641). The two cars, which they also used in their getaway, were found abandoned in the afternoon on Castillo Street, Gatchalian Subdivision, Las Piñas City.

The police said the robbers also commandeered a cement mixer which was found later in Bacoor, Cavite.

As of press time, Estilles said his men were still conducting pursuit operations against the suspects.



Students show up, but where to go?

By Allison W. Lopez

CLASSES AT THE JOSE ABAD SANTOS High School in Binondo, Manila were suspended yesterday after there was confusion among school officials and students on where classes should be held.

Some students went to the school's new building at Numancia and Urbiztondo Streets, San Nicolas, also in Binondo, while others went to the school's old campus on La Chambre St., which is about a kilometer away.

Almost 80 percent of the school's equipment and supplies, however, have already been moved to the newly built school.

Teachers, students and their parents have opposed the transfer of the school to its new location.

Evelyn, the parent of a student, said the area has an unfriendly environment.

"The new school is surrounded mostly by deserted buildings and commercial establishments. Moreover, our children also have to pass through the Pasig River just to get to school, which is too dangerous for them," she told the INQUIRER.

Mayor-elect Alfredo Lim went to the school's new site earlier in the day to talk to students and their parents. Lim and Sen. Jamby Madrigal filed in December a petition asking a Manila court to stop the city government's plan to convert the school's old site into a housing and commercial area. The court, however, denied their petition.

Pedro Arao, administrative officer of the Department of Education in Manila, said classes would most likely remain suspended at JASHS until the issue is resolved by Lim and Education Secretary Jesli Lapus.

Expect for the buildup in traffic, police officials said that the first day of classes in public schools in Metro Manila had no hitches.

"It was not only peaceful, it was also very orderly," Supt. Rommel Miranda of the National Capital Region Police Office said.

Students of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, meanwhile, protested the 300 percent increase in tuition which would take effect this semester.

Their enrollment and registration forms were stamped with the words, "Paid under protest" to show their opposition to the "illegitimate" increase approved by the UP Board of Regents last December.

"The university is dismantling the very concept of state education, where education is afforded the poorest of the poor, in implementing this increase," said James Mark Ridon, UP student regent. *With Julie M. Aurelio, Jeanette I. Andrade, Joanne Gonzales and John Edison Fulgencio*

Police urge DOJ to reconsider Boratong ruling

By Kristine L. Alave

THE EASTERN POLICE DISTRICT (EPD) yesterday called Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's decision clearing suspected drug operator Amin Imam Boratong and his allies of murder charges "absurd" and urged him to reconsider his ruling.

In a motion for reconsideration, counsel Roque Merdegia Jr., chief legal counsel of the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force, said Gonzalez was out of bounds in his decision to absolve Boratong, his wife Memie, and henchmen P02 Ramil Along and Nashir Labay of killing GMA 7 informant German Colisao in November 2005.

"The court has already acquired jurisdiction over the case by filing the information against the respondents for the murder of German Colisao, hence it behooves upon the Honorable Secretary not to entertain the petition for review filed by the respondents," Merdegia said in the motion, adding that "the order of the Honorable Secretary of Justice has certainly created an absurd situation when the court which had already acquired jurisdiction over the case would deny the same."

In his May 23 decision, Gonzalez noted that there was insufficient evidence that could link the four to Colisao's death, contrary to the findings of State Prosecutor Geronimo Sy. The justice secretary also raised doubts on the credibility and testimony of Samer Palao.

Palao, who served as right hand to Boratong, the alleged operator of a compound of shabu dens in Barangay Sto. Tomas in Pasig City, said the Boratongs ordered Colisao killed after they caught him taking video footages of the drug market. Labay and Along were reportedly tasked to kidnap and kill Colisao, Palao said. The compound was raided and demolished last year.

Since the case had already been filed in court, Gonzalez should have let the trial court decide the merits of the case and the credibility of Palao, Merdegia said. "The order was unceremoniously and hastily issued relying alone on the alleged questionable credibility of the witness Palao," the PNP counsel said.

"The credibility of witnesses is a matter best left to the trial court because of its peculiar position of being able to observe his deportment on the stand while testifying," Merdegia added.

DID YOU KNOW

DESPITE the enactment of the Clean Air Act in 1999, the air over Metro Manila remains dirty, mainly due to traffic congestion. As of July 2005, the level of total suspended particulates in the metropolis was recorded at 152 micrograms per normal cubic meter—way above the national standard of 90 micrograms. Northern Metro Manila is the most polluted part of the metropolis, according to the data of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Estafa cases filed vs Jimenez wife, son

By DJ Yap and Allison W. Lopez

FORMER MANILA REP. MARK JIMENEZ yesterday filed separate cases of estafa against his wife, son and relatives.

Charges were filed in the Makati City Prosecutor's Office against his estranged wife Caroline Castañeda, son Marcel Crespo and sister-in-law Rosemarie Flaminiano. Also named in the charge sheet were Crespo's relative, Geraldine Antonio, and Brenda Heffron. Jimenez accused the five of conspiring to sell his house in Forbes Park, Makati, for P118 million.

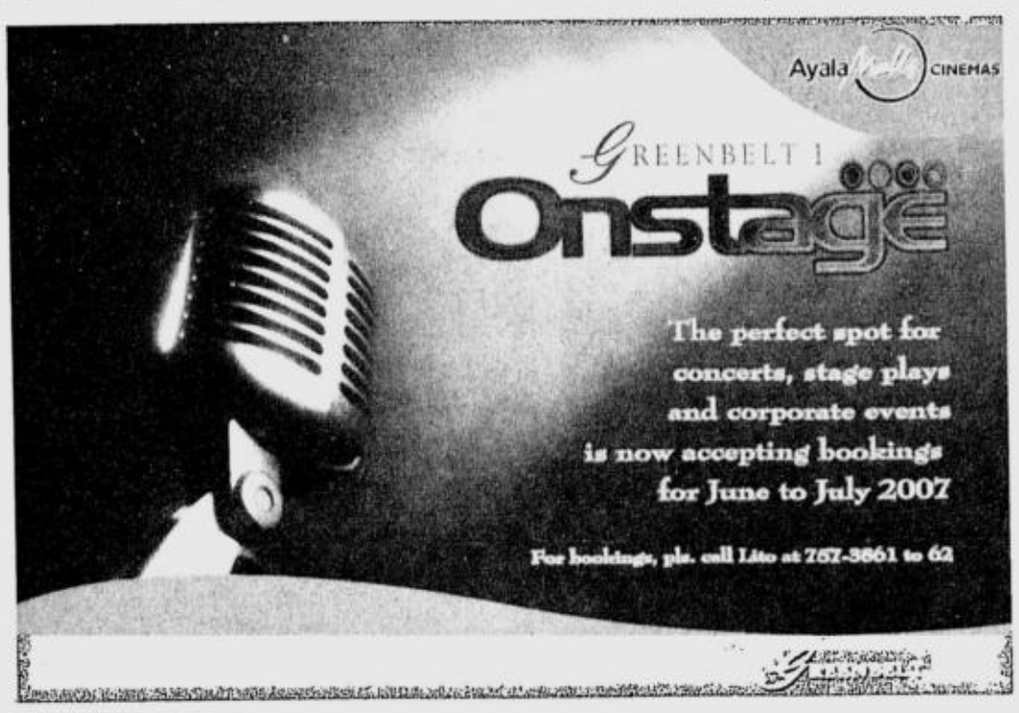
Jimenez said that while he was detained in the United States in 2004 for making illegal campaign contributions, Crespo persuaded Carol to transfer her shares in Clarion Realty and Development Corp. to Antonio, for which she executed a deed of sale on Aug. 10, 2004. Clarion was incorporated on Oct. 26, 1998, for the purpose of buying the house.

The Forbes Park property was put up for sale by brokers, including Heffron, Jimenez said. The property was later sold to the Philmetro Southwest Enterprises Inc., with the proceeds going to Flaminiano and Castañeda and farmed out to different companies established by the two, he added.

Jimenez also filed charges in the Manila Prosecutor's Office against Castañeda, Flaminiano and their relatives Evangeline Castañeda, Magdalena Cunanan, Jonathan Flaminiano and Jose Alberto Flaminiano, stockholders or officers of CSF Computer Network Inc. (CSF).

The former congressman said the respondents prodded him to finance CSF, which had a contract with the Commission of Elections for the production of tamper-proof IDs.

The respondents, he alleged, collected P43 million from the Comelec, but failed to give him his share as part of an agreement.



The MILF 'rescue' of kidnapped foreigner

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION Front (MILF) claims responsibility for the rescue of a German national, Thomas Wallraf, and his three Filipino companions, who were supposedly kidnapped by bandits in Pikit, North Cotabato.

The MILF turned the victims over to the government.

Aw, c'mon, guys, only the government believes, or at least pretends to believe, your rescue yarn!

Even the village idiot won't bite your story. He would say, *"Lokohin n'yo ang lelong n'yong panot* (Tell that to a gullible old man)."

For all we know, some MILF men could have ordered the kidnapping of the foreigner and his Filipino companions, and then released the victims to win the sympathy of European readers and TV viewers. One of the victims is a European.

"Ah, the Muslim rebels in the Philippines are not all bad," would most probably what these readers or viewers would think.

"It's only the Abu Sayyaf bandits who are bad. Look, those Muslim rebels calling themselves the Moro Islamic Liberation Front even rescued a European like us from kidnappers."

Why do I say the kidnapping was staged by the "rescuers"?

Elementary, my dear Watson. No bandit group would dare operate inside MILF territory.

The MILF has its own laws that it applies harshly to lawbreakers.

All bandit groups within MILF territory are rebels supposedly operating without sanctions from the MILF leadership.

If the MILF indeed rescued the German and his companions from bandits, where are the bandits? Why were they not turned over to the government as well?

* * *

The government encourages investments in the country to keep money circulating and provide jobs for the unemployed.

But it does not walk the talk. Investors are given a hard time.

Take the Caloocan City Hall, for example.

A local small pharmaceutical company that manufactures herbal medicines folded up in that north Metro Manila city because it was allegedly given a hard time by City Hall.

Although it had the green light from the Bureau of Food and Drugs, it couldn't operate full blast because it could not obtain a clearance from the barangay where the factory is located.

A barangay clearance is required before all other clearances can be obtained from City Hall.

Barangay officials were asking for P20,000 from the pharmaceutical firm, but its management refused to come across as a matter of principle.

The all-Filipino firm manufactures vitamin C from guava fruit; vitamin E from almond; antidiabetic drugs from ampalaya leaves; and antihypertensive drugs from garlic.

METROBRIEFS

New mall 'safe'

THE QUEZON City Engineer's Office said yesterday that the collapse of a portion of a ceiling of the newly-built TriNoMa Mall in Quezon City on Saturday was caused by maintenance lapses rather than structural problems. Engineer Joselito Cabungcal told the INQUIRER that the incident happened at around 6:45 p.m. at the second floor of the building at the corner of Edsa and North Avenue. Parts of the ceiling reportedly fell on the second floor, near the entertainment section of the TriNoMa (Triangle North of Makati) Mall, but no one was hurt in the incident. Cabungcal explained that a storm drain pipe clogged with accumulated rain water caused the ceiling to collapse. He added that the mall had met all city safety and building requirements for its operation. In a statement, Jan Bengzon, external affairs head of Ayala Land Inc., which owns and operates the mall, said: "A storm drain line on the second floor gave way as a result of an accumulation of rain water from a sudden downpour. This caused a small portion of the ceiling to fall into an area fronting an unoccupied section of the mall." The city engineer already inspected the premises and has given the go-signal for the mall to operate "after passing all safety standards," Bengzon added.

Jeannette I. Andrade

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

June-05

Mr. Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez
President AFMA and COMP

Hon. Vice President Noli De Castro
Vice President, Republic of the Phils

Hon. Angelo T. Reyes
Secretary
Dept. of Environment & Natural Res.

Mr. Mitchell H. Hooke
Chief Executive, Minerals Council of Australia

Mr. Charlie Sartain
CEO, Xstrata Copper

Mr. Arturo Manto
VP for Environment & External Affairs, Coral Bay Nickel Corporation

Mr. Stephen Orr
CEO, Oceana Gold Ltd

Patrick J. Waters
President/Exploration Manager
Anglo American Exploration Phils., Inc.

Dr. J. David Lowell
Lowell Mineral Exploration

Mr. Horacio C. Ramos
Director, Mines and Geo-sciences Bureau

Mr. Hans Christian Qvist
President & CEO
Crew Minerals Corporation

Mr. James Anthony Climie
CEO, MRL Gold Philippines

Mr. Constante P. Bumanglag
SVP & COO
Atlas Consolidated Mining Dev't. Corp.

Mr. Tony Robbins
Director of Operations, Philippines
Indophil Resources Phils., Inc.

June-06

Dr. Arif S. Siregar
Chairman
Indonesian Mining Association

Dr. R. Sukhyar
Deputy Minister of Energy & Mineral Resources

Mr. Tony Wenas
Vice President, Legal, Tax & External Affairs
PT Freeport Indonesia

Mr. Darma Ambiar
Director
Aneka Tembang (Persero) PT

Mr. Adi Maryono
Newmont Nusa Tenggara PT

Mr. Mike A. Jolley
Rio Tinto Indonesia

Owen Hegarty
CEO, Oxiana Mining Company

Mr. Karsten Fuelsler
Senior Investment Officer, Oil, Gas & Mining Dept – IFC

Mr. Alexander Molyneaux
Managing Director, Asia Pacific Investment Banking
Citigroup Global Markets Asia Ltd

Mr. Josef Gueta
Managing Director,
Business Profiles, Inc.

Mr. Greg Walters
USTDA Bangkok Office

Dr. Beau Dees, MD
Medical Director, International SOS China

June-07

Mr. Chadap Padmasuta
Chairman-Executive Board, Mining Industry Council

Mr. Stephen Promnitz
Corp. Development Manager, Akara Mining Company Ltd

Mr. Monthop Valayapetre
Deputy Director General, Department of Primary Industries & Mining

Mr. Thanakorn Poolthave
Asst. Governor, Fuel Management
Electrical Generating Authority

Dr. Pinyo Meechumna
Faculty of Engineering
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Dato Dr. Mohd Ajib Anuar
President, Malaysian Chamber of Mines

Mr. Yunus Abdul Razak
Director-General, Malaysian Dept of Mineral & Geoscience

Mr. Mustapha Mohd Lip
Deputy Director General, Department of Mineral & Geoscience

Mr. Ahmad Omar
Vice President, Malaysian Chamber of Mines

Mr. Lal Fook Hoi
Group Chief Operating Officer
Malaysia Smelting Corporation BHD

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MATERIAL HANDLING SPECIALIST

PASAR

Sustaining the Momentum for Renewed Growth

By Rey L. Quiason, Jr. & Vangie Aquino-Quiason

Congratulations to the ASEAN Federation of Mining Associations (AFMA) and the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines for organizing and hosting the 7th Asia Pacific Mining Conference and Exhibition.

Your event's theme, "Sustaining the Momentum for Renewed Growth," is very timely since our country is now facing the challenges of global competitiveness and how to keep the momentum of our economic turnaround.

Mining plays a vital role in sustaining our economic rebound. We must continue our efforts in supplying the great demand for metals in the global market.

The country's mineral wealth is estimated to be worth at least US $800 billion. This amount is about 14 to 17 times the current Philippine external debt of US $57 billion. Extracting only a tenth of this mineral wealth is more than enough to wipe out this debt.

The mining sector has been identified as a priority concern under the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan for 2004-2010. This Plan supports mining initiatives through basic infrastructure, fiscal incentives, technical and market assistance and credit, among others. Its target is to generate US $4-6 billion investments and at least 500,000 jobs over the next years.

The Philippine government welcomes foreign investments in the mining sector and in other areas of development.

May you have a successful conference and exhibition. *Mabuhay!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Warmest greetings to the men and women of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines and the ASEAN Federation of Mining Association for organizing the 7th Asia Pacific Mining Conference and Exhibition this June 5 to 7, 2007, in Makati City.

In the midst of the most buoyant metal prices in more than two decades, the global mining industry is undeniably experiencing tremendous growth. Profits are up, as well as exploration spending. The Asia Pacific region is no exception – host to some of the world's emerging economies and a major producer of many metals/minerals. This year's theme – Sustaining the Momentum for Renewed Growth – aptly captures the robust development of the mining sector and of the continuing interest of global investors in the region.

The Philippines, for itself, launched its Revitalization Program before this upsurge. And renewed interest and investments have stimulated mineral exploration and mine development activities and have resulted in increased metals production. In fact, metals production for the first quarter of 2007 soared by a notable 56 percent.

Yet, this prosperity comes with a challenge – the challenge of mineral wealth – as many have called it. That is, proving that mineral endowments are beneficial for the economic and social development of our countries. From the beginning, the Philippines' Revitalization Program has been anchored on one basic principle, that of responsible mining for sustainable development. Learning from the past, the Philippines is aware that the best legacy of the industry goes beyond the contribution to common economic indicators, but proving how the benefits of mining can be used to protect the environment and be felt by the communities long after the mine has ceased.

This challenge, however, is not unique to the Philippines but familiar to many Asia Pacific countries. And sustaining the current momentum of our mining industries means confronting the challenge head-on and proving the skeptics wrong!

Wishing for the success of the Conference and beyond.

Mabuhay!

ANGELO T. REYES
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

This year is the most auspicious time for the Philippine mining industry to be euphoric. With the economic fundamentals at its best, investment confidence in the industry and the country will be a lot easier to promote and sustain. We have been working on this since 2003 and, indeed, it has been an uphill climb before we started to see the initial fruits of our labor. With the majors back in the limelight of Philippine mining and their continuing exploration activities being undertaken in practically most of the areas in the country, we are confident about how mining can contribute to nation-building.

Financial institutions are also upbeat about the country and the local bourse is booming with portfolio inflows. With the unwavering support we are getting from the government and its commitment to further enhance the policy environment, we can look forward to a cohesive working environment for all stakeholders.

Recent developments point to 2007 as the take-off point of the minerals industry. We expect bigger investments inflow in 2008, 2009 and 2010 leading to bigger contributions to the country's gross domestic product, larger export receipts, increased tax revenues, greater employment opportunities, and a reduction in poverty, particularly in areas hosting mineral resources.

As we in the industry continue to move forward the great task of developing our God-given resources, we remain committed to the equally important tasks of corporate social responsibility and in managing efficiently our sector's impacts on the environment. After all, mining is not only about creating wealth for humanity but also sustaining humanity's environment.

BENJAMIN PHILIP G. ROMUALDEZ
President, AFMA
President, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines

The Philippine mining industry is currently situated in an enviable position of a sellers market, not seen during the last two decades. With the growing demand for minerals and metals by China, India and the rest of the world, it is now upon the industry to take advantage of this great opportunity to create wealth from the rich mineral endowment the country has been blessed with.

While the direct responsibility of wealth creation lies in the hands of mining companies, an even greater task of bringing mining projects into operation depends upon how well government acts and perceives such great opportunities. Time is of the essence in mineral resource development and the streamlining of processes in the grant of mining permits is deemed important. Indeed, the government's policy pronouncements for the revitalization of the industry have helped sustain investor confidence, thereby, supporting strong economic fundamentals.

The country's mining industry has learned so many lessons in the past. It now looks into the future of the industry's development with better perspectives of environmental management, corporate social responsibility and the protection of human rights. Technological advancements have made possible best practice environmental management, while community development responsibilities have been going on in the mine sites since mining operations have started in the country. The assimilation of indigenous people in the mining communities has since been acknowledged not only by the elders but also their sons and daughters who have availed of education and knowledge to become responsible citizens.

I am particularly happy to see, again, the golden years of the industry in the very near future.

ARTEMIO F. DISINI
Chairman
Chamber of Mines of the Philippines

Chamber of Mines of the Philippines

International players and luminaries in the global mining industry converge today, June 5 and in the next two days at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City, to discuss prospects in mining investments and development in one of the world's emerging mineral hotspots – Southeast Asia.

This gathering is the 7th Asia Pacific Mining Conference and Exhibition that follows up the 6th edition held also in the Philippines last October 22-25, 2005. Although regional in perspective, this event will be international in scope as it brings global mining players, financial institutions, international mining agencies and other relevant players in the mining industry.

Vice President Noli de Castro will formally open the conference and exhibition, with DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes giving the Plenary Address. He is expected to emphasize the Philippines' effort in attracting foreign investments in mining and discuss his support for responsible mining.

The participants will also have a dinner with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang on June 7. The President has been a staunch advocate of the mining industry, even before the Supreme Court ruled on the constitutionality of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

The goal of this event is to sustain enthusiasm in the mining industry in the Asia Pacific region, enhance investments, and promote trade and cooperation in order to ensure the development of the region's vast mineral resources that, to this day, remains untapped. The gathering is also expected to help resolve issues and concerns common to developing mineral-rich countries and build confidence to manage a responsible mining industry in the region.

This international event hopes to keep the mining sector in the economic agenda of the Philippines and the member-countries of the ASEAN in order to sustain the momentum of interest in mining and its contributions to the alleviation of poverty in the countryside.

Some of the world's most eminent names in mining exploration and development will be around to speak before the participants. These include Mr. David Lowell, considered the world's greatest explorer; Mr. Charlie Sartain of Swiss mining giant Xstrata; Mr. Stephen Orr of Oceana Gold; Mr. Patrick Waters of Anglo American Exploration Phils., Inc.; Mr. James Climie, MRL Gold Philippines; Mr. Cris Lynch of BHP Billiton; Mr. Mitchell Hooke of Australia; Mr. Hans Christian Qvist, Crew Minerals Corporation; Mr. Benjamin P. Romualdez, President of AFMA; and Mr. Owen Hegarty of Oxiana, another successful international mining conglomerate.

Mr. Lowell and Mr. Sartain also have interests in the Philippines. The former - whose team has discovered some of the riches ore bodies in various parts of the world, has stakes at the Dizon copper mines in Zambales and the Far South East Copper-Gold Mine in Lepanto, Benguet province. The latter recently expressed commitment to operate the Tampakan project in Cotabato after buying 62.5 percent controlling interest in the mine.

Mr. Hegarty, for his part, is acknowledged as the miner with the "magic touch" for having turned the US$10 million Sepon Mine in Laos into a US$3.5 billion enterprise. Oxiana's Sepon Mine received the mining operation of the year award from London's Mines and Money.

The other speakers are expected to discuss the mineral prospects in Asia and to share their strategies and experiences in managing mining operations, especially under a regime of environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

The organization of the conference and exhibition is due, in large part, to the efforts of Benjamin P. Romualdez, president of the Philippine Chamber of Mines as well as the ASEAN Federation of Mining Associations (AFMA), and supported by the Minerals Development Council. AFMA was organized in 1984, with the mining association of Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand as founding members.

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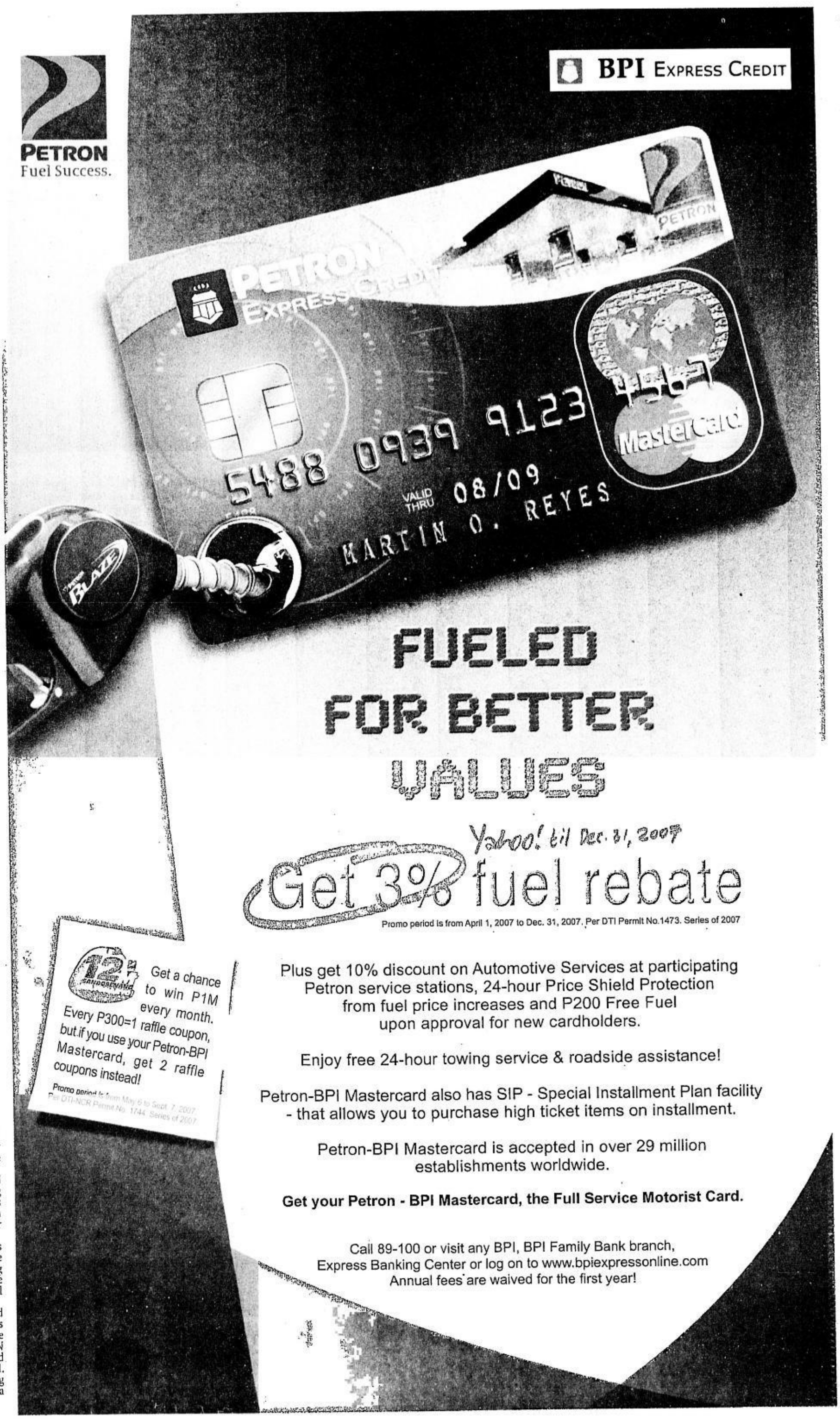


The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Putin threatens to point missiles at Europe

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin: tough talk AFP

MOSCOW—PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN SAID RUSSIA would go back to its Cold War stance of aiming its missiles at Europe if Washington went ahead with a plan to build a missile defense shield near Russia's borders.

In an interview released late on Sunday, Putin acknowledged that Russia's response risked reviving an arms race in Europe but said Moscow would not be responsible for the consequences because Washington had started the escalation.

Putin made the tough statement before what is likely to be a frosty Group of Eight summit in Germany on June 6 where, among other world leaders, he will come face to face with US President George W. Bush.

Russia has not specifically targeted its missiles at Europe since the end of the Cold War but, asked if it might return to that if the US missile shield plan went ahead, Putin said: "Of course we are returning to those times.

"It is clear that if a part of the US nuclear capability turns up in Europe, and, in the opinion of our military specialists, will threaten us, then we are forced to take corresponding steps in response."

"What will those steps be? Naturally, we will have to have new targets in Europe."

Russia's combative response to the US missile shield has prompted comparisons with the Cold War. Putin has directed angry rhetoric at the White House, last week calling US policy "imperialist."

Russia has test-launched a new ballistic missile in a move it tied to the US missile plans, and suspended its compliance with a treaty limiting the deployment of conventional forces near Russia's western borders.

Putin's warning that missiles might once again be pointed at European targets carries a clear political message but has few practical implications.

Even after the Cold War ended, Russia retained the capability to hit European and US targets. Training ballistic missiles on a particular target is a fairly simple technical task that can be done in a matter of minutes.

Putin's comments came in an interview Putin gave to selected media from G8 countries on Friday.

Russia's response to the US missile moves would be to develop "more effective offensive systems," Putin said in the interview.

"We know that that risks restarting an arms race, for which we will not be responsible. It was not us who started altering the strategic balance."

Putin added: "Today we warn: If a new missile defense system is deployed in Europe there will be a response," he added. "We are forced to ensure our security."

Washington wants to locate elements of its planned shield—including a radar station and interceptor missiles—in Poland and the Czech Republic.

It said the shield is not a threat to Russia but is designed to protect against possible missile attacks from what it calls "rogue states" such as Iran and North Korea.

Putin said that was not credible. "There are no Iranian missiles with the necessary range," he said. "So it becomes obvious that this innovation is about us Russians."

Putin reiterated that a military escalation was not Russia's choice. "We are not in favor of confrontation," he said. "We are in favor of a dialogue.

"We want to be heard, we want our position to be understood," he said. "We do not rule out that our US partners could review their decision (to build the missile shield)."

"But if that does not happen, we lift from ourselves any responsibility for the steps we take in response because we are not the ones who are initiating the looming arms race in Europe." *Reuters*

JFK terror plot was short on means, say court papers

NEW YORK—THE PLOT AS PAINTED by law enforcement officials was cataclysmic: A home-grown Islamic terrorist had in mind detonating fuel storage tanks and pipelines and setting fire to Kennedy International Airport, not to mention a substantial swath of Queens.

"Had the plot been carried out, it could have resulted in unfathomable damage, deaths and destruction," Roslynn R. Mauskopf, the US attorney in Brooklyn, said in a news release that announced charges against four men. She added at a news conference: "The devastation that would have been caused had this plot succeeded is just unthinkable."

Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly then stepped to the lectern with a vision only a bit less grim.

"Once again, would-be terrorists have put New York City in their crosshairs," he said. Kelly said a disaster had been averted.

But a reading of the criminal complaint filed by the federal authorities against the four defendants in the case—one of them remained at large Sunday—suggests a less-than-mature terror plan, a proposed effort longer on evil intent than on operational capability.

At its heart was a 63-year-old retired airport cargo worker, Russell Defreitas, who the complaint said talked of his dreams of inflicting massive harm, but who appeared to possess little money, uncertain training and no known background in conceptualizing or planning a terror attack.

"Capability low, intent very high," a law enforcement official said of the plotters.

Mark J. Mershon, assistant director in charge of the FBI's New York office, said Sunday that his message was very clear:

"I believe I spoke the simple truth at the press conference: The ambitions were horrific, the capacities were very limited, but they kept trying. Their signature was their persistence." *NYT*

GRAND GALAXY
The perfectly picturesque spiral galaxy known as Messier 81, or M81, looks sharp in this new composite from Nasa's Spitzer and Hubble space telescopes and Nasa's Galaxy Evolution Explorer (Galex) released on June 1. M81 is a "grand design" spiral galaxy, which means its elegant arms curl all the way down into its center. It is located about 12 million light-years away in the Ursa Major constellation. AFP

Somali PM escapes suicide attack, tags Qaida

MOGADISHU—SOMALI PRIME MINISTER ALI Mohamed Gedi escaped a deadly suicide carbomb attack on his Mogadishu compound Sunday that he said was an al-Qaida operation aimed at destabilizing his war-scarred country.

"What happened today was an al-Qaida-masterminded terrorist attack against me and the terrorists wanted to discourage the government and Somali nation, but they will never succeed," Gedi told local media.

"Six of my security men were killed in the explosion and I am right now with other officials in my compound," he said, revising upwards a previous death toll of four.

The explosion, against Gedi's residence in the north of the capital, followed a deadly weekend assault in northeastern Somalia by security forces and a US warship against Islamic extremists with suspected links to al-Qaida.

A neighbor who declined to be named said the bomber rammed his car into the gates of Gedi's property, and then the blast shook the area.

"The explosion was very huge and could be heard in a long distance," Abdi Salam Ali, another neighbor, told AFP.

"This was an attack against the prime minister. This is the work of antipeace elements who want to terrorize the Somali people," government spokesperson Abdullahi Muhidin said, vowing that the perpetrators "shall be hunted and brought to justice."

It was the fourth time in a year that Gedi has been the target of assassination attempts. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Islamists battle Lebanon Army at second camp

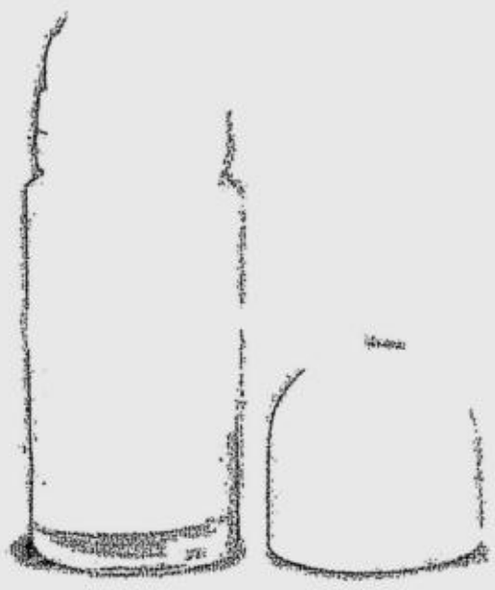
AIN AL-HILWEH, Lebanon—Islamist militants attacked Lebanese troops at a second Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon on Monday, killing two soldiers and threatening to plunge the country into long-term instability. The clashes that broke out on Sunday at an entrance to the sprawling Ain al-Hilweh camp, appeared to be an attempt to open a new front in the south against the army and ease pressure on al Qaeda-inspired fighters at Nahr al-Bared in north Lebanon. Apart from the two Lebanese soldiers, one civilian and two militants were also killed at Ain al-Hilweh, Lebanon's biggest camp, security and military sources said. *Reuters*

June starts with 16 US soldiers dead in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Sixteen American troops died in Iraq in the first three days of June, marking a bloody start to the month as the US military presses on with its crackdown on sectarian violence in Baghdad. A total of 127 American troops died in May, the third worst total for US forces since the invasion of Iraq in March 2003. Fourteen of the latest deaths were reported on Sunday alone by the US military. North of the capital, a suicide car bomber attacked a police convoy in volatile Diyala province, killing 10 people in a busy market area and wounding 30 others, the local police chief said. *Reuters*

Japan PM's support hits lowest level

TOKYO—Support for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has fallen to its lowest level since he took office, dented by the suicide of a scandal-hit minister and government bungling of pension records, an opinion poll showed on Monday. The survey comes less than two months before a crucial election for parliament's upper house, Abe's first ballot-box test since he became prime minister last September. A weekend survey by the Asahi newspaper found approval for Abe's cabinet had slid to 30 percent, down from 36 percent a week earlier. Nearly 70 percent of voters were unhappy with Abe's handling of the controversy over Agriculture Minister Toshikatsu Matsuoka, who killed himself last week just hours before he was to face questioning in parliament over links to several political funding scandals. *Reuters*



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WHAT'S INSIDE

□ Red Lions thwart Bombers, face Bulldogs in semifinals /A22

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□ Sharapova survives as spectators jeered /A24

Batang Pier to focus on defense vs Sealers

DEFENSE WILL AGAIN BE ON HARBOUR CENTRE'S playbook when it aims for its third PBL championship stint in as many outings.

After shutting down Henkel Sista's offense in the opener, the defending champion Batang Pier seem confident of pulling off a sweep in Game 2 of the Unity Cup semifinals at 2 p.m. today.

"We want to finish the series early but we have to keep our focus and play solid defense," said Harbour coach Jorge Gallent. "We can't take Sista easily; it also has the materials."

For Toyota Balintawak, consistency will be the watch word when it tries to eliminate top-ranked Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala in the other best-of three semifinal duel at 4 p.m. at the Olivarez College Sports Center.

"We cannot really celebrate (after winning Game 1) because our team has a tendency to relax after a victory," said Road Kings mentor Ariel Vanguardia.

If Harbour Centre and Toyota Balintawak advance to the championship round, it will be the second time both teams will fight for the crown since their Finals showdown in the same tournament last year.

Batang Pier looked well-drilled defensively as it held the Super Sealers 16 points below its average in Game 1 last Saturday.

But the Super Sealers have put behind them the 87-62 massacre with Fil-Am point guard Ryan Reyes expected to log in more minutes this time.

The sensational new recruit, who averages 14.7 points, suited up for less than a minute in his last two outings due to a groin injury.

"I'll be ready for Game 2," the 6-foot-1 Reyes said. "I have to play and help the team."

According to Gallent, the task to limit Reyes' production has been designated to Ryan Arana, JC Intal and Jojo Duncil, with Jason Castro and Chico Lanete at the forefront of the Batang Pier's offensive.

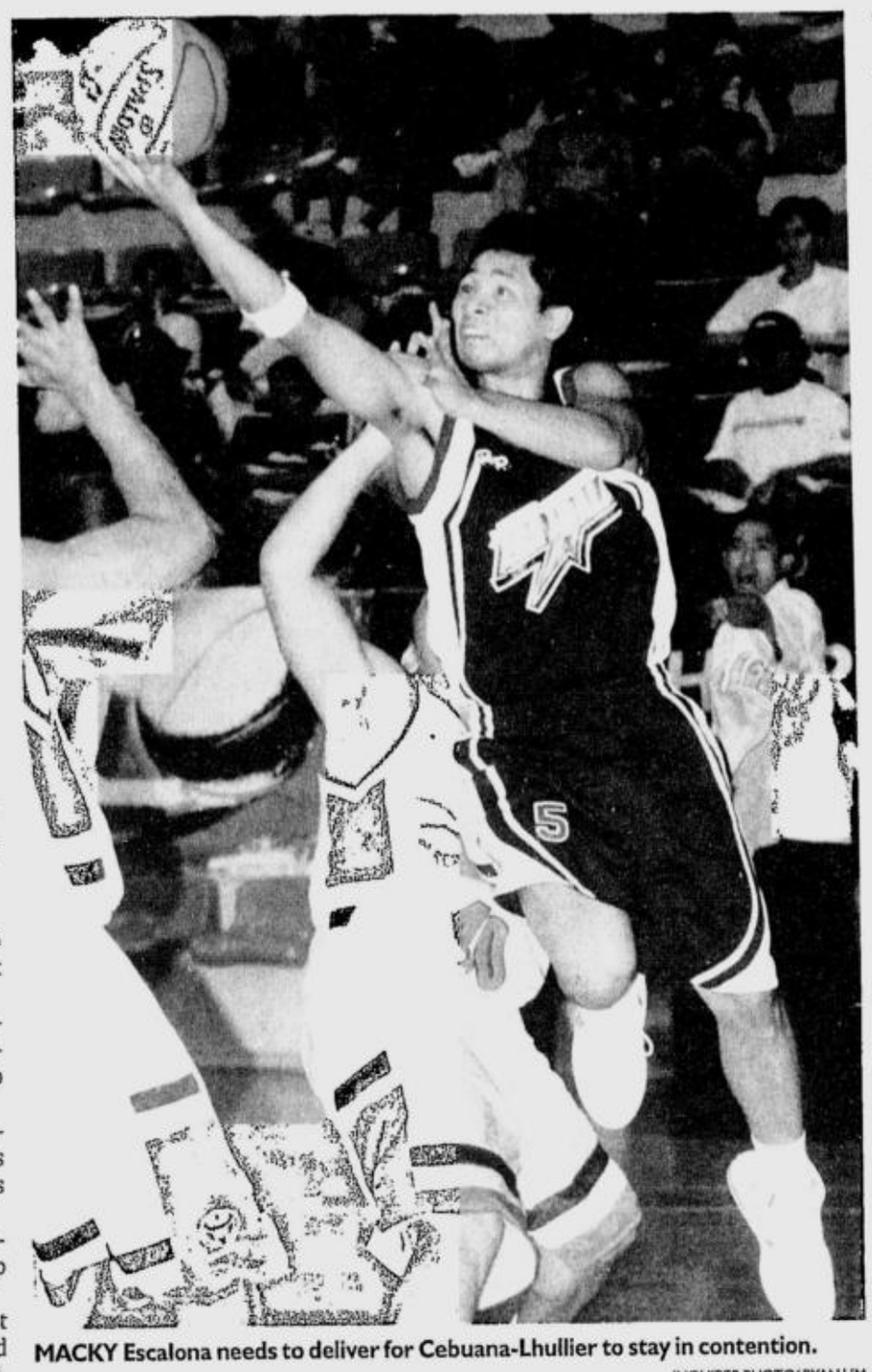
For the Road Kings, a three-pronged attack built on Marvin Cruz, Patrick Cabahug and Fil-Am Joe Devance will be the key to duplicate their 68-65 Game 1 stunner over the Moneymen.

The trio will be up against top MVP contender Ken Bono and former Ateneo duo Doug Kramer and Macky Escalona, the two other Moneymen who landed in the top 10 of this conference's statistical race.

"The challenge is to be consistent," said Vanguardia after the Road Kings halted the Moneymen's conference-best seven-game winning streak. "We're expecting it to be a gruelling series."

Cruz completed a crucial three-point play in the last three minutes of Game 1 to power the Road Kings in the game that saw 10 deadlocks and 11 lead changes.

With Devance also manning the defense at the paint, the Road Kings held the Moneymen scoreless in the final five minutes. *Jasmine W. Payo*



MACKY Escalona needs to deliver for Cebuana-Lhullier to stay in contention.

INQUIRER PHOTO/ RYAN LIM

Bono, Castro running 1-2 in Unity Cup MVP derby

By Jasmine W. Payo

BONO: 518 points

CASTRO: 17 behind

AN ASSERTIVE LOW-post scorer and a clutch-shooting guard are in a tight battle for the Most Valuable Player award in the PBL Unity Cup.

Ken Bono of Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala and Jason Castro of Harbour Centre are expected to keep their top form as their respective teams contend for championship berths.

Bono, the 2006 UAAP MVP, brought his prolific numbers from the collegiate wars to the PBL and led the statistical race with 518 points.

With his numbers similarly heading uphill, Castro came in a close second with 501 points to stay on track for a second straight PBL MVP title after clinching top player honors in last conference's Silver Cup action.

Moneymen coach Luigi Trillo believes Bono deserves credit beyond his imposing inside game and improving touch from beyond the arc.

"He's sacrificing a lot for the team," said Trillo. "He makes sure that everyone gets involved."

The portly 6-foot-5 Bono posted a league-best 16.33 points, as well as 6.75 rebounds and 2.16 assists per game to shepherd the surprising Moneymen to the top spot with a 10-2 elimination record.

Castro, meanwhile, turned out to be the defending champions' do-it-all leader with averages of 12.08 markers, 5.67 rebounds, 4.75 assists and 1.25 steals.

BONO/ A22

46 added events boost RP's SEA Games title drive

By June Navarro

TEAM PHILIPPINES SOMEHOW GOT what it wished for after the Southeast Asian Games Federation Council approved the inclusion of several events crucial to the country's title defense in the biennial meet.

The Federation Council, made up of representatives from the Games' 10 member countries, added 46 more events at the end of its three-day caucus yesterday in Nakron Rachassima, the hub of this year's SEAG in Thailand.

A total of 485 gold medals from 43 sports is now at stake in the 24th edition of the Games, which will be held in three satellite venues from Dec. 6 to 16.

The Games will officially open on Dec. 6 but football and shooting will kick off hostilities as early as Nov. 29.

Of the 46 events, 15 are considered gold-medal potentials for Team Philippines.

The events added in dancesport, traditional boat race, diving and billiards are expected to boost the country's hopes of duplicating its maiden SEAG overall crown two years ago, according to Philippine Olympic Committee officials.

The Federation Council approved the addition of three events in billiards and snookers, five in bodybuilding, five in cycling, 10 in dancesport, four in canoe-kayak, four in diving, five in gymnastics and at least two more events in both karatedo and wushu.

PEREZ: RP hope

The council also okayed the inclusion in the Games of competitions in traditional boat race and squash, both of which have two events, and added the mixed doubles event in tenpin bowling and the 60-kilogram class in women's boxing.

Filipino officials in the Federation Council also successfully wrangled the inclusion of billiards' 9-ball men's doubles, dancesport's Latin and Standard events, diving's one-meter women's springboard and traditional boat race's 1000-meter 10-a-side races for men and women.

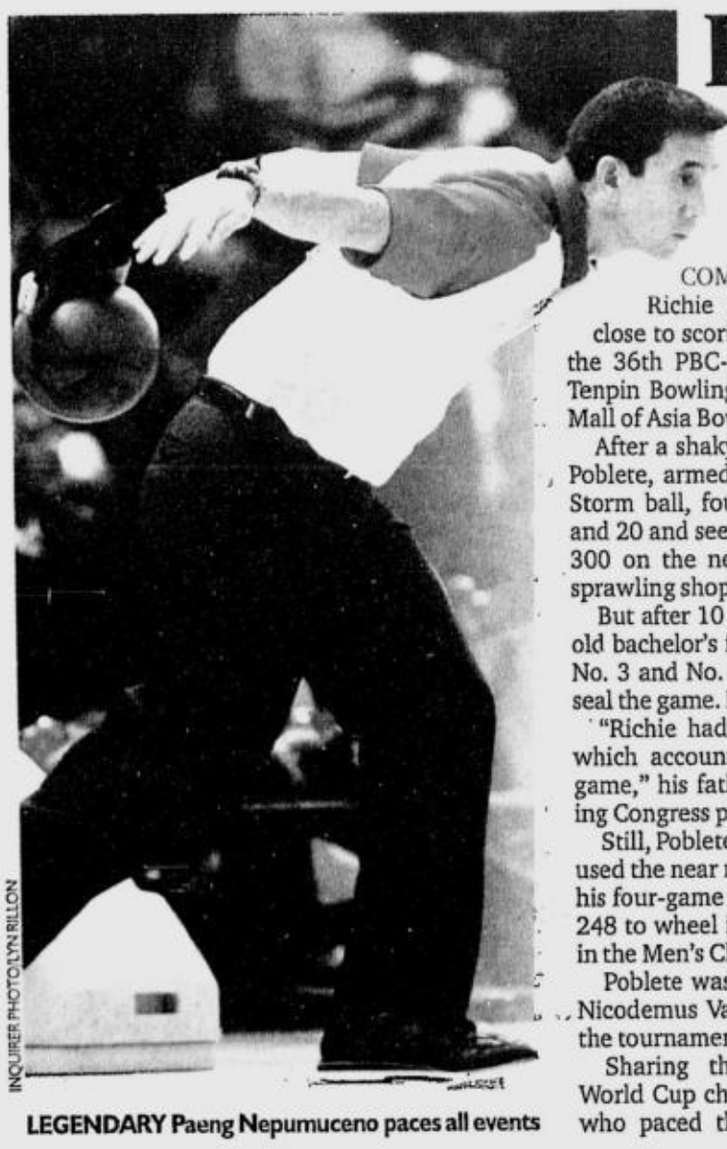
In the 2005 Games, Filipino rowers swept the six gold medals in traditional boat race while the dancers won all the four golds at stake in the Latin and Standard events.

Alex Pagulayan and Dennis Orcollo snared the gold in the 9-ball doubles, lady boxer Mitchelle Martinez won the 60 kg category in women's boxing, and Sheila Mae Perez—the Games' most bemedalled athlete—won the women's one-meter springboard.

Before the Philippine delegation attended the meeting, the POC had vowed to lobby for at least 24 events, the bulk of which would come from wushu, traditional boat race and weightlifting.

Only seven of the 24 events the RP delegation requested, however, were granted by the Federation Council.

Just the same, the inclusion of 10 events in dancesport is already a cause for moderate celebration for Team Philippines.



LEGENDARY Paeng Nepumuceno paces all events

INQUIRER PHOTO/LYN RILLON

Poblete misses 300; Paeng shows way

COMEBACKING national player Richie Poblete came tantalizingly close to scoring the first perfect game in the 36th PBC-Boysen International Open Tenpin Bowling Championships at the SM Mall of Asia Bowling Centre yesterday.

After a shaky 159 in the opening frame, Poblete, armed with a 15.5-pound Vertigo Storm ball, found his groove on lanes 19 and 20 and seemed poised to make the first 300 on the newly built venue inside the sprawling shopping complex.

But after 10 strikes in a row, the 33-year-old bachelor's fortune ran out as he left the No. 3 and No. 6 pins standing in his bid to seal the game. He eventually settled for 287.

"Richie had difficulty reading the lines which accounted for his 159 in the first game," his father, former Philippine Bowling Congress president Ric Poblete, said.

Still, Poblete, coming off a six-year layoff, used the near miss as a springboard to close his four-game series with scores of 249 and 248 to wheel into second place with a 943 in the Men's Class O eliminations.

Poblete was 23 pins behind frontrunner Nicodemus Valderama, who had a 966 in the tournament.

Sharing the spotlight was four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno, who paced the men's Class O all-events with a tally of 1,707 after the singles, doubles and team competitions.

Reigning world champion Biboy Rivera was in second spot at 1,645 while Chester King took third with a 1,592 output.

On the other hand, it was an all-PBA show in the ladies' Class O all-events with siblings Lara and Posadas in first and second places with 1,549 and 1505, respectively, while teammate Holly Josef occupied third spot with 1,469.

In men's Class A singles, national junior bowler Jose Collins sizzled with a four-game series of 993 Sunday to set the early pace.

A Tenpin Bowling Associaiton of Makati mainstay, Collins rolled lines of 245, 257, 212 before closing out on a searing note with a 279 for a top 248.75 average.

PBA's Annie Marie Kiac paced the Ladies' Class A eliminations with a 756. TBAM's Liza Vicente (719) was second while teammate Madeline Llamas was in third spot at 706.

In the Men's Class B contest, ATBA's Boyet Valeroso took first with a 784 card, followed by MCTBA's Boy Roman (721) and TBAM's Amor Pardo placing third (690).

AMBA's Reggie Galvez (721) was the frontrunner in the Ladies Class B singles, PBA's Nelia Santos (719) was in second spot and MTBA'S Veijin Uy (693) third.

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Manalo rallies to top Florida pool

VICTOR AGAIN: Marlon Manalo ends a series of anemic performances.

FILIPINO MARLON MANALO EKED OUT A come from behind 9-8 victory over American Tommy Kennedy to emerge champion in the Seminole Florida Pro Tour yesterday in Spring Hill, Florida.

The 30-year-old Manalo earned $3,500 (about P153,000) for his second victory in the Florida circuit. He also won in Palm Harbor on April 28-29 and placed third in Miami on May 5-6.

Manalo, third placer in the 2005 Taiwan World Pool Championships, did it the hard way, climbing out of a 6-1 hole to continue his recovery from a series of anemic performances.

The pride of Mandaluyong City settled for ninth place in the 2007 Enjoypool.com BCA 9-ball championships on May 12-19 in Las Vegas, Nevada, and wound up 17th in the Predator World 10-ball on May 24-27 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Trailing 8-6, Manalo swept the next three racks to frustrate Kennedy, who took home $2,000 for placing second. American Stevie Moore landed third, worth $1,500, while another Filipino, Warren Kiamco, finished fourth for $1,200.

According to the AZbilliards website, Manalo clustered four racks to move within 6-5. Kennedy won the 12th rack and the two traded wins in the next two racks as Kennedy reached the hill, 8-6.

On the way to the finals, Manalo drew a bye in the opening round, toppled Randy Whitehead, 7-0, Paul Song, 7-3, David Reljic, 7-3, David Broxson, 8-2, before yielding to Stevie Moore, 8-7, and falling into the losers' bracket.

Manalo bounced back by whipping compatriots Dennis Orcollo, 8-3, and Kiamco, 8-3, and exacting revenge on Moore, 8-2.

Other Filipinos who saw action were United States-based Al Lapena, Alex Pagulayan, Edwin Montal and Santos Sambajon.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Red Lions thwart Bombers, face Bulldogs in semifinals

By Jasmine W. Payo

SAN BEDA STAR YOUSIF ALJAMAL POURED IN EIGHT OF HIS 18 POINTS IN A key third-quarter rally as the Red Lions trounced the Jose Rizal Bombers, 89-84, to advance to the semifinal round of the Filoil-Flying V Preseason Invitational Cup yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

The Red Lions remain favored in the Final Four when they tackle the National University Bulldogs, who outlasted the Letran Knights, 74-66, in the other quarterfinal duel.

Cyrus Malaguena took over the scoring load in the second period to pace the Bulldogs with 18 points.

Along with Aljamal, Ogie Menor and Pong Escobal provided the defensive stops for the Red Lions who roared to a 70-56 advantage after trailing 40-42 at the half.

Menor drilled in a team-high 19 points, while Escobal contributed 16 markers.

The Heavy Bombers dictated the tempo in the first half behind JM Wilson, James Sena and Mark Cagoco.

Wilson paced the Bombers with a game-high 21 points.

The Knights also put up a strong ef-fort with Dino Daa and RJ Jazul before Malaguena sparked a Bulldogs comeback that tied the count at 37.

La Salle, starring James Mangahas and veterans JV Casio, Rico Maierhofer and Tyrone Tang, also made it to the next phase when it turned back Mapua, 95-90.

The four Green Archers actually combined for 68 of the 95 points scored by La Salle that spoiled the hot shooting of Mapua Cardinals Kevin dela Pena and Sean Co, who fired 26 and 25 markers, respectively.

La Salle is awaiting the result of the match between University of the East and Far Eastern University to determine its next opponent.

The scores:

First Game

NATIONAL U 74—Malagueño 18, Ponferada 10, Baloran 9, Jahnke 7, Aguila 5, Luy 5, Lingao- Lingao 4, Catamora 3.

LETRAN 66—Daa 11, Jazul 10, Guevaraa 9, Cabonce 9, Quinday 8, Faundo 6, Reposar 6, Del Rosario 3, Mekegrito 2, Dangcal 2.

Quarters: 17-25, 37-37, 55-47, 74-66

Second Game

SAN BEDA 89—Menor 19, Aljamal 18, Escobal 16, Lanete 16, Hermida 9, Ekwe 7, Magay 2, Marcelo 2.

JOSE RIZAL U 84—Wilson 21, Sena 19, Cagoco 13, Nocom 9, Hayes 9, Cunanan 5, Agas 4, Bulangis 4.

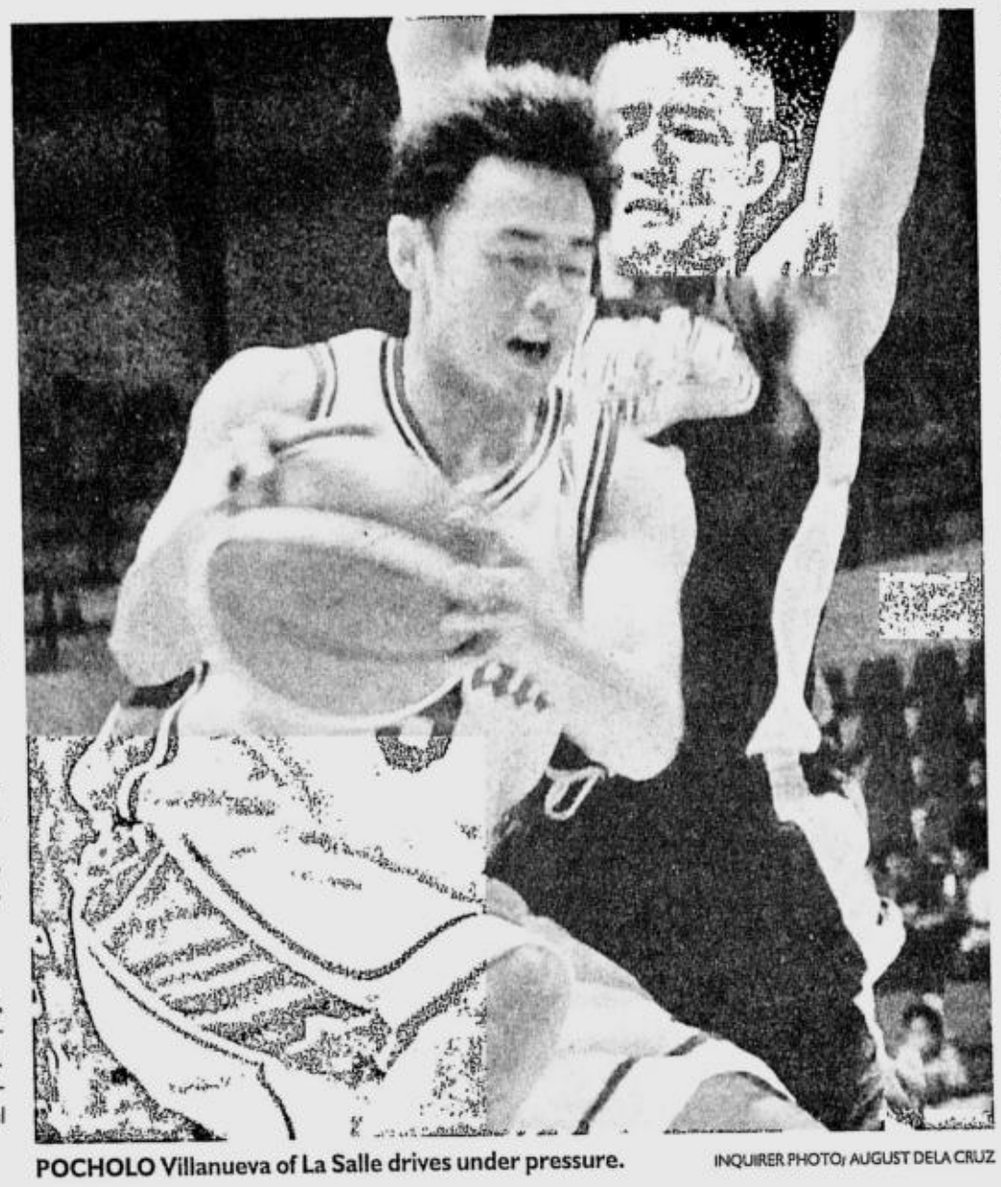
Quarters: 15-19, 40-42, 70-56, 89-84

Third Game

LA SALLE 95—Mangahas 20, Casio 19, Maierhofer 17, Tang 12, Batricevic 7, Villanueva 6, Walsham 5, Co 5, Atkins 2, Ilad 2.

MAPUA 90—Dela Peña 26, Co 25, Pascual 15, Guillermo 11, Del Rosario 6, Banal 5, Acosta 2.

Quarters: 31-21, 47-48, 67-72, 95-90



POCHOLO Villanueva of La Salle drives under pressure. INQUIRER PHOTO/ AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Baguio wins player plum anew for raging Bulls

IT'S HARDLY SURPRISING THAT SPLENDID individual performances are aplenty as the ball clubs frantically make their final push in the homestretch of the Talk 'N Text PBA Fiesta Cup eliminations.

Collectively, the Bulls stood out as they won their final four games to emerge the No. 1 team and grab the first outright berth in the semifinals.

Individually, James Yap, Sonny Thoss, Ronald Tubid and Cyrus Baguio excelled, keying their respective teams' crucial victories.

In what became a close four-way fight, Baguio edged Yap, Thoss and Tubid for the PBA Press Corps' Accel-Talk 'N Text Player of the Week honors for the period May 30-June 3.

It's the second time Baguio emerged Player of the Week this season after winning the same plum before the Holy Week break.

But Baguio shone brighter this time, coming through with 26 points, six assists and two rebounds to lead the Bulls to a 105-103 victory over the Coca-Cola Tigers that secured their outright passage into the semifinals.

The 26-point output was a career second-best for this 2004 slam dunk king who has stepped up with the departure of Enrico Villanueva.

Baguio has been up to the task so far, averaging 15.5 points since Villanueva's exit.

"*Kailangang mag-trabaho ng husto dahil malaking kawalan si* Rico," said Baguio.

Curiously, Baguio and his teammates made their longest streak in the conference minus Villanueva who earlier joined the RP team in the Seaba tournament in Ratchaburi, Thailand, then found himself being dealt to San Miguel Beer.

"Cyrus has really matured as a player," said coach Yeng Guiao. "He's been working very hard to improve his skills, and his attitude, knowledge and passion for the game is worth mentioning."

PIQC spikers share lead with UST girls

GAMES SATURDAY (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
1:30 p.m.—UE vs MGC New Life
2:30 p.m.—UST vs Hope Christian
3:30 p.m.—Assumption Antipolo vs Roosevelt College
4:30 p.m.—ICA Greenhills vs CSA

STREAKING PHILIPPINE INSTitute of Quezon City trounced Imus Institute, 25-14, 25-11, on Sunday to share the lead with University of Santo Tomas in the 3rd Shakey's Volleyball Girls League (GVL) at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym.

PIQC drew 22 points, including 14 kills, from the power duo of Denise LIm and Shirley Hwang to notch its third win in as many outings, the same record held by UST in Bracket C.

Roosevelt College-Marikina pounced on the 18 errors of St. Jude Catholic School to post its first victory, 25-3, 27-25.

Batasan Hills shared the limelight by dumping Pag-ibig Unida School, 25-22, 25-17, in Bracket A.

Batasan leveled its slate at 2-2 while PUS slipped to 1-2.

Prenza High School trounced Assumption Antipolo, 25-13, 25-7, to inch closer to the quarterfinal round.

It was the fourth straight win for Marilao-Bulacan-based Prenza in Bracket B.

Prenza earlier subdued Colegio San Agustin, 22-25, 25-20, 25-15, Roosevelt College Marikina, 25-22, 25-20, and St. Jude Catholic School, 25-19, 25-12.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Candidates should keep their vow to help sports

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

DURING THE LAST ELECTION CAMPAIGN, several candidates promised to support sports, among them former Sen. Loren Legarda and three-term Rep. Francis "Chiz" Escudero—two candidates of the Genuine Opposition who lead the senatorial derby by the proverbial mile.

Fine. But can the people expect them to keep their promise once they are in office?

"They should keep their promise," said Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco. "I hope their interest in helping sports continues even after the elections. They should not give the athletes false hopes."

Both Legarda and Escudero pledged to include sports development in their political agenda during the campaign.

Escudero, in particular, shared my view—which I have repeatedly said in my previous columns—that "sports is not among the government's priorities" even though sports plays a big role in the development of the Filipino youth. He said that the discipline acquired by the youth through sports makes them good leaders and role models.

"Our athletes should be given the support they deserve," he said. "Incentives to athletes are given only after they've won. We should put our stakes in the athletes."

Escudero also said he was supporting the call to give appointees to the Philippine Sports Commission a fixed term of at least four years to avoid frequent changes in the plans and programs of the PSC.

"This will assure continuity in the programs aimed at winning the first-ever Olympic gold."

I agree.

* * *

There is a need to give the PSC chair and his commissioners a fixed term to enable them to exercise their function without the intervention of their political patrons. PSC officials are appointed by the President.

Escudero also stressed that for the agency to gain financial muscle, the PSC should receive—in full—its share from the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Racing Commission and from the tariff in the importation of sports equipment.

The PSC is operating on a meager budget. Congress should not tie the hands of the PSC. How can the agency realize its dream of winning that elusive Olympic gold when its budget, instead of being increased, gets slashed through the years? Clearly the decline in the budget the government allots to the PSC smacks of bias against sports.

* * *

In the budget passed by the last Congress, sports stands to get only the crumbs. Other government departments, however, like defense, education, foreign affairs, health, justice and environment and natural resources will not only get huge budgets, but government attention and special treatment as well.

Reelected Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella once said that sports in the Philippines will not survive without government support. He is expected to bat for a bigger outlay for the PSC in the next Congress.

"I will do everything to increase the PSC budget because sports development is the primary responsibility of the government," added the former PSC commissioner.

In my case, I find it ridiculously unreasonable for the government to neglect the various national sports associations (NSAs) whose coffers are always empty. How can these NSAs produce world-class athletes for the Olympics when they do not have enough money?

* * *

ODDS AND ENDS. I am saddened by the lackluster performance of Filipinos seeing action in the ongoing Guinness Asian 9-Ball Tour. After two legs of the Tour, players from Chinese-Taipei have dominated the series, with Chang Jung-lin and Yang Ching-shun topping the Jakarta and Kaohsiung legs, respectively. Next stop will be on June 15-17 in Malaysia, with double world champion Ronnie Alcano, Jeffrey de Luna and Roberto Gomez, all of Bugsy Promotions; and Lee Van Corteza of Negros Billiards Stable carrying the RP colors.

Bono, Castro . . . From page A21

"He often bails us out," said Batang Pier coach Jorge Gallent said of Castro.

Three other Moneymen—all playing key roles alongside Bono in their stunning seven-game winning run—also landed in the top 10 of the statistical race.

The strapping Doug Kramer compiled a third-best 467 points by topping the tournament in rebounds at 8.75 boards, aside from norming 8.42 points and 1.5 assists.

Cebuana point guard Macky Ecalona (10.17 points and 4.58 feeds) and veteran forward Eric dela Cuesta (6.33 points and 3.58 rebounds) shared the eighth spot with 400 statistical points.

A constant MVP contender, JR Quiñahan of Burger King led the league in blocks to secure the fourth spot with 448 points. The wide-bodied Visayan sensation swatted 2.33 attempts per game and powered the Whoppers to the quarterfinals with averages of 13.33 points, 7.33 boards and 1.75 assists.

Dennis Daa, Toyota Balintawak's own low-post threat, completed the top five with 425 points built on 15.67 markers, 6.75 rebounds and 1.83 assists.

Also in contention for individual honors are Harbour Centre's Chad Alonzo (416), Toyota Balintawak's Patrick Cabahug (402) and Harbour Centre's Chico Lanete (387).

Meanwhile, Harbour Centre and Toyota Balintawak vie for a semifinal sweep in their respective Final Four duel tomorrow at the Olivarez College Sports Center.

Batang Pier aims for a third straight championship appearance versus Henkel Sista at 2 p.m., while the Road Kings hopes to upset the favored Cebuana Lhuillier at 4 p.m.

World champ will clinch NCA Cocker of Year title

THE WINNER OF THE NATIONAL Cockers Association World Championship Derby will also be honored as the NCA Cocker of the Year, the organization announced yesterday.

The prestigious three-day derby, which has drawn some of the finest cockers and breeders in the United States and Asia, fires off today at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor as sponsor.

NCA officials said part of the proceeds of the event, billed as the "Olympics of Cockfighting," will go to the scholarship program of the organization.

In Sunday's press conference at the Edsa Shangri-La, officials also announced that NCA scholar Mara R. Cordial recently graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños with a degree in BS Agriculture, major in Animal Science and specializing in Poultry Nutrition.

A tough foreign cast that includes former world champions Joe Wolcott, Larry Whitehead and

INQUIRER PHOTO/EDWIN BACASMAS

WHITEHEAD

Dan Gray, battles top Filipino cockers headed by Patrick Antonio and Rep. Iggy Arroyo for the championship and the world champion's trophy designed by National Artist Eduardo Castrillo.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Good Riddance (2), Thereshope (6), Sweet Na Sweet (4), Dictionary (7)

Race 2 — (Penta/Qrt/Tri) —China Girl (4), Interceptional (2), Dazzling Affair (6), Pentagon (7), Exceptional Gem (9)

Race 3—Afternoon Delight/Eye Candy (1), Macho Man (3), Sir Henry (2), Golden Connections (4)

Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Infinite Passion (1), Pure Energy (7), Yankee Clipper (3), Premiere Act (2), Reign of D'Jungle (11), God Is Good (5)

Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Royal Academy (2), Priyanka (9), Pay To Play (10), You Got It All (3), Wind Shore Lady (4)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Virgin Island (5), Bloodline (6), Uncle Suck (3), Golden Harry (4), House Of Riches (9)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Gentleman's Lady (5), Cast Away (3), St. Emilion (1), Valentine Girl (7), Ancestral Home (2)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Pay To See (1), Angie Red/Run Like D'Wind (10), Eskapo (12), Formidable Ella (11), Strong Boy (6), Reigns Supreme (8)

Blue Eagles, Green Archers break golf tie in Classic Cup

ARCH RIVALS ATENEO AND LA SALLE FIGHT for bragging rights anew when they break their 1-1 tie in the third Ateneo-La Salle Classic Cup Tournament slated June 29 at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna.

Players from both squads are already predicting another down-the-wire finish this year.

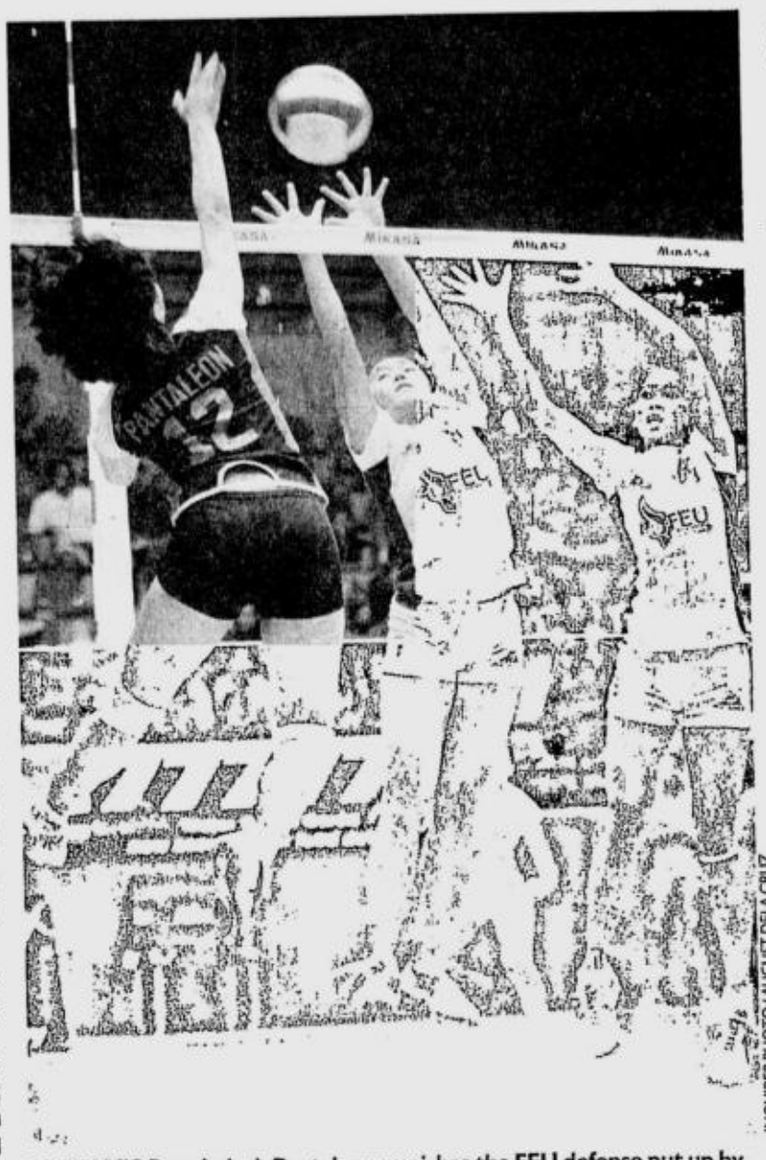
The Green Archers won the inaugural tournament two years ago, but the Blue Eagles bounced back last year, winning the closely fought encounter by 11 points.

The event is presented by Smart Communications and PLDT and draws the finest players—alumni and students, including those from the Visayas and Mindanao—from both elite schools.

This year's winner will keep the coveted Classic Cup permanently, according to the organizers.

The Ryder Cup-style head-to-head format will again be used to determine the winning squad.

For inquiries, call ADMU Loyola Heights, 426-6001 loc. 4083; ADMU Graduate School (Rockwell Center), 729-6866; DLSU-Manila (DLSAA Office), 523-6158, 526-5612 or log on to www.dlsaa.com; DLSU-PSI (RCBC Plaza), 753-4617; LSGH (LSGAA), 721-2729 and 722-7750; DLS-Zobel, 842-8480; Canlubang Golf and Country Club, (049) 549-1363.



INQUIRER PHOTO / AUGUST DELA CRUZ

LETRAN'S Bangladesh Pantaleon punishes the FEU defense put up by Beverly Semana (center) and Bernadette Morada in Sunday's game.

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Ateneo, SSC gun for s'final slots

TWO THAI-REINFORCED SQUADS WILL vie to keep a share of second place against separate foes in the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball tournament today at The Arena in San Juan.

Boosted by Thai playing assistant coach Kanchana Jindarat, Ateneo will gun for its fourth straight victory against Adamson in the 1 p.m. opener.

Thai Jeng Bualee will also try to help San Sebastian extend its own winning run to three against University of Santo Tomas at 5 p.m.

Another victory will strengthen the semifinal bids of the Lady Eagles and the Lady Stags, who share second place at 3-1 behind the streaking Lyceum Lady Pirates.

Lyceum already clinched the first semifinal berth after sweeping its first five matches.

La Salle, the surprisingly struggling defending champion, and Letran will clash at 3 p.m.

Fresh from its conquest of rival La Salle, Ateneo banked on Jindarat's game-high 23 points to pull off a 22-25, 25-23, 25-21, 25-15 stunner over the three-time titlist last Sunday.

Michelle Laborte contributed 15 markers for the Lady Eagles and remained steadfast at the defensive front, combining with Jindarat for eight blocks.

STANDINGS	W	L
Lyceum	5	0
SSC	3	1
Ateneo	3	1
La Salle	2	3
UST	1	2
Adamson	1	3
Letran	1	3
FEU	1	4

GAMES TODAY
(The Arena, San Juan)
1 p.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo
3 p.m.—Letran vs La Salle
5 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs San Sebastian

The Lady Eagles, though, will be up against the rejuvenated Lady Falcons, who ended their three-game skid with a 20-25, 25-17, 25-16, 25-22 victory over the Tigresses.

Angela Benting, Hannah Suarez, Rissa Laguilles and guest player Suzzane Roces will be at the forefront as the Lady Falcons aim to follow up on the breakthrough win.

The Tigresses, the reigning UAAP champion, fell to fourth place at 2-2 after the mediocre performances of aces Venus Bernal and Mary Jean Balse.

And the odds remain even when the Tigresses try to recover against a well-rested Lady Stags, the two-time NCAA titlists. *Jasmine W. Payo*

FORD NAT'L TEAM SHOOTOUT

Eastridge ends up on top at Highlands

THE EASTRIDGE TEAM OF JAY PABALAN and Korean expatriates Park Jung-soo, Kim Byung-il and Hwa Yoon-se turned in a two-day total of 113 to top the recent Ford National Team Shootout at the Tagaytay Midlands and Highlands Golf Club.

The Eastridge Golf Club squad scored 58 on the first 18 holes and 55 in the second to best an Orchard quartet of Ray Sangil, Alma Buentipo, Marissa Romano and Ting Yupangco by two shots.

Orchard tallied 60 and 55 for 115, three shots ahead of the third-placed Iloilo Golf and Country Club team of Timothy Parker, Mark Rivera, Jose Recto Isada and Mervyn Cornelius which submitted 118.

The top 11 teams from golf clubs across the country disputed the championship on May 31 and June 1, in the culmination of the second annual tournament that drew a total of about 3,000 players.

Defending champion Royal Northwoods failed to figure in the title race of the event jointly presented by Ford Philippines, Golf Digest Philippines and The Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc.

Pabalan, Park, Kim and Hwa won an all-expense-paid golf vacation to China.

The Orchard squad settled for free trips to Boracay while the Iloilo team won a golfing vacation in Baguio.

Other gift items such as Dunlop Golf Bags, Callaway head covers, VMV Armada Sport 70 sunblocks, Big Bertha Steel Heads from Callaway and Callaway golf bags were raffled off during the awards ceremonies held at the China Palace restaurant at Tagaytay Highlands.

The Ford National Team Shootout 2007 was backed by Mizuno, Immuvit, Nike Golf, Oakley, Dunlop, VMV Hypoallergenic Armada Sport 70, Callaway, Raymundo's Trophies, Golf Pro and Gerry's Grill.

Media partners were the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Hinge Inquirer Publications, Solar Sports, Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3 and Joey 92.3. For the complete tournament results, visit www.golfdigest.ph. *Inquirer Sports Staff*

EASTRIDGE'S Jay Pabalan, Park Jung-soo, Kim Byung-il and Hwa Yoon-se show their trophies.

TRS circuit car racing class opens Saturday

THE TUASON RACING School begins its Circuit Car Racing Class for enthusiasts on Saturday at the Subic Freeport.

The country's first and only racing school offers basic and advance courses designed to develop future motorsports champions.

The basic course for beginners is a combination of theoretical and hands-on training designed to teach them the fundamentals of driving a circuit car.

The advanced circuit car class takes students to a higher level of training by exposing them to the intricacies of vehicle dynamics and advanced racing techniques such as race-start procedures, passing and braking.

Students are expected to become comfortable in a race car and drive it at a faster pace.

TRS was established in 1999 by JP Tuason, a former karting champion and son of racing legend Arthur Tuason.

For inquiries, visit www.tuasonracing.com or call 817-7795.

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIA
Province of Northern Samar
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: June 5, 2007
ADB Loan No.: 1772-PHI
Contract No.: SP-08-009-01

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InfRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for Rehabilitation/Improvement of 12.34 kilometers Victoria Farm to Market Road, Package 1. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that:
   (a) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as Medium A contractor or better, and
   (b) have undertaken within the past 5 years, as the contractor, management contractor or subcontractor, (3) roads construction work projects valued at least Nineteen Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P19,500,000.00) each
2. The *LGU-Victoria* invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the Works for the Rehabilitation/Improvement of 12.34 kilometers Victoria Farm to Market Road Package 1, which includes Earthworks (Excavation and embankment), Road Gravelling and Construction/Installation of RCBC and RCPC. The Contract Period is about Twelve months (360 calendar days)
3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at BAC Secretariat LGU-Victoria, Victoria, Northern Samar.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS (P8,000.00).
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Security of 2% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to LGU-VICTORIA, VICTORIA, N. SAMAR. The schedule of bid activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	May 30 to July 5, 2007	8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	BAC Secretariat, LGU-Victoria, N. Samar
Bid Preparation Period	June 6 to July 5, 2007		
Pre-Bid Conference	June 22, 2007	9:00 A.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar
Deadline for Submission of Bids	July 6, 2007	9:59 A.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar
Bid Opening	July 6, 2007	10.00 A.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar

6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action
7. For further inquiries you can call cell no. 09065840767

(Sgd.) MARTHA E. CADANO
Chairperson,
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 5, 2007)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
Construction of Upi Water Supply System

Construction of Level III Water System consisting of spring intake structure, storage structure, transmission and distribution lines, and other appurtenances.
Loan No. MBUSSP-UWSS-01

The *Municipality of Upi, Shariff Kabunsuan*, through the *Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector Project (MBUSSP) Municipal Development Fund Office (MDFO) Lending Program* intends to apply the sum of *Twenty Seven Million Two Hundred Ten Thousand Pesos (PHP 27,210,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *Construction of Upi Water System*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The *Municipality of Upi, Shariff Kabunsuan* now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the *Construction of Level III Water System consisting of spring intake structure, storage structures, transmission and distribution lines, and other appurtenances*. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs before the close of office on *June 19, 2007, 5:00 P.M.* at the *Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Upi Municipal Hall, Upi, Shariff Kabunsuan* and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: *June 20, 2007; 10:00 A.M.* at the *BAC Secretariat, Upi Municipal Hall, Upi Shariff Kabunsuan*. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at *Upi Municipal Hall, Upi, Shariff Kabunsuan* on or before *June 20, 2007; 10:00 A.M.*
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the *BAC Secretariat* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M.* to *5:00 P.M.* on *June 20-July 9, 2007*.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Twelve Thousand Pesos (PHP 12,000.00)*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before *July 9, 2007; 5:00 P.M.*
7. The *Municipality of Upi, Shariff Kabunsuan* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on *June 29, 2007; 10:00 A.M.* at the following address: *Municipal Conference Room, Upi Municipal Hall, Upi, Shariff Kabunsuan.*
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before *July 9, 2007; 10:00 A.M.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *Cash, Manager's/Cashier's check, Letter of Credit and in an amount of Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (PHP 270,200.00)* or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on *July 10, 2007; 10:00 A.M.* at *Municipal Conference Room, Upi Municipal Hall, Upi, Shariff Kabunsuan*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at *10:00 A.M.; July 10, 2007.*
9. Completion of the Works is required by *360 Calendar Days.*
10. The *Municipality of Upi, Shariff Kabunsuan* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. PAULO D. CAGARA, MPA
BAC Chairman

LGU, Upi, Maguindanao Contact Nos :
Telefax No. (064) 390-1025
Email address upimag@yahoo.com
Note : Dates of newspaper publication : June 5 & 12, 2007
Date of Posting at Conspicuous Places, PhilGEPS & LGU-Upi
Website www.upians.com.ph : June 5, 2007

(PDI – June 5 & 12, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
SANGAM & COMPANY, 3509 Buenas Aires St., Sampaloc, Manila	Satveer Singh	Supervisor
FILACE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY CORP., G/F Amber Square, 7 Escriva Dr., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Young Mi Jung	Comptroller
PHIL 119 TOURS AND TRAVEL AGENCY CORP., U-908 City & Land Mega Plaza, ADB Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Kyoung Taec Hahn	Manager
BU-ZZA TRADING INC., 761 Roxas Blvd., Tambo, Parañaque City	Yun Su Kang	Operations Manager
BU-ZZA TRADING INC., 761 Roxas Blvd., Tambo, Parañaque City	Chang Ho Kang	General Manager
BU-ZZA TRADING INC., 761 Roxas Blvd., Tambo, Parañaque City	Jae Hyun Kim	Marketing Consultant
DOMINOES INDUSTRY CO. LTD., 1106 Dadivas St., Binondo, Manila	Hongli Chen	Consultant
DOMINOES INDUSTRY CO. LTD., 1106 Dadivas St., Binondo, Manila	Shaomo Chen	Assistant Manager
DOMINOES INDUSTRY CO. LTD., 1106 Dadivas St., Binondo, Manila	Rongshi Ke	Technical Consultant
OPTIMUM SOURCE, INC., U-2501 Orient Square Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Thomas Paul Seifert	Translator
OPTIMUM SOURCE, INC., U-2501 Orient Square Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Youn-Jin So	Translator
OPTIMUM SOURCE, INC., U-2501 Orient Square Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Hee Sook Oh	Translator
SYKES ASIA, INC., 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Sung Hye Baik	Korean Client Support
FILIPINO INT'L. RESOURCES SCIENCE & TECH. CORP., Rm. 308, 3/F NFWC Bldg., 962 J.L. Escoda St., Ermita, Manila	Michael Johannes Heinen	Consultant
HI PHILIPPINES TRAVEL AGENCY INC., U-2005 World Trade Exchange Ctr., 215 J. Luna St., Binondo, Manila	Dong Jin Jang	Marketing Manager
BESTON RICH MINERALS INC., Unit 2410 Sunview Palace Condo., M.H. del Pilar St., Ermita, Manila	Qing Liao	General Manager
PRU LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF U.K., 25/F Tower 1, Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Nishit Piyush Majmudar	President & Chief Executive Officer
WAAGNER BIRO PHILIPPINES, INC., 2/F Keystone Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Albin Dipl.-Ing. Konigshofer	Operations Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

In commemoration of the 109th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Philippine Independence, DOLE will hold a "Mega Job and Livelihood Fair" on June 12, 2007 at Rizal Park, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. For more information, call 3030364 / 3035922

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–June 5, 2007)

SPORTS

Sharapova survives Schnyder challenge

MARIA SHARAPOVA hits a return to Patty Schnyder at Roland Garros on Sunday. REUTERS

PARIS—NOT EVEN THOUSANDS OF JEERing fans could ruin the moment for Maria Sharapova.

After saving two match points and breaking Patty Schnyder in the 16th game of the third set to reach the French Open quarterfinals with a 3-6, 6-4, 9-7 win, the Russian smiled and waved through the whistling at Court Suzanne Lenglen.

The spectators turned on Sharapova at 7-7 in the final set Sunday, when she won a disputed point while serving at 30-love. Schnyder watched a serve land in, then complained she had held up a hand to call for time.

The chair umpire ruled the point would count, giving Sharapova her first ace of the tournament. Sharapova said later she didn't see Schnyder's hand until after hitting the ball—and had no regrets about what happened.

"It's pretty hard being a tennis player and Mother Teresa at the same time," Sharapova said. "You're fighting for every single point out there."

Schnyder was one point away from ending the match in the 10th game and again in the 14th—and she also was two points away from victory on 11 occasions. But Sharapova stayed positive.

"Don't count on me giving up," the two-time Grand Slam champion said.

Serena Williams and Justine Henin also won Sunday, setting up a quarterfinal showdown, while Roger Federer advanced in the men's draw.

Monday's schedule featured the four remaining men's fourth-round matches, including two-time French Open winner Rafael Nadal against two-time major champion Lleyton Hewitt.

Sharapova, who has been hindered by a right shoulder injury, said she was able to stay in the match against Schnyder because she kept to her style of play.

"I wasn't going to beat her by being a clay-court player. I'm simply not a clay-court player," Sharapova said. "I started moving in and I started hitting the ball and I started attacking."

The 14th-seeded Schnyder even gave credit to Sharapova for the comeback.

"At the end, yeah, she was the big champion. I'm the little one who could not win," said Schnyder, whose best result at a major was the semifinals at the 2004 Australian Open.

Sharapova will next face No. 9 Anna Chakvetadze, who beat No. 25 Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 6-4, 0-6, 6-2.

Williams beat Dinara Safina of Russia, 6-2, 6-3, while two-time defending champion Henin beat No. 20 Sybille Bammer of Austria, 6-2, 6-4.

In the 2003 French Open semifinals, Henin beat Williams in a contentious match.

"I don't want to reflect on that anymore. I let it go," said Williams, who has won both of her matches against Henin since, including the final at Key Biscayne, Florida, in March.

No. 3 Svetlana Kuznetsova, No. 4 Jelena Jankovic, No. 6 Nicole Vaidisova and No. 7 Ana Ivanovic also advanced. Jankovic will meet Vaidisova in the next round, while Kuznetsova faces Ivanovic. *AP*

Federer ties McEnroe's set streak

ROGER FEDERER: 35th straight set win. REUTERS

PARIS—ROGER FEDERER PREPARED FOR A long day on court, even though it's been quite a while since he's had one at a Grand Slam.

"I've got enough shirts for five-set matches in the bag," he said. "I only used one today, which was good."

Federer tied the Grand Slam record for most consecutive sets won, taking his streak to 35 by beating No. 13 Mikhail Youzhny of Russia, 7-6, (3), 6-4, 6-4, Sunday to reach the French Open quarterfinals.

The No. 1-ranked Federer matched another Open era mark with 11 straight-set Grand Slam victories in a row. John McEnroe set both records in 1984, during Wimbledon and the US Open.

"It is something which is quite special, I would say," he said. "But I'm focused on Roland Garros and I want to win my matches. And if I can win in three sets, so much the better—but I'm not looking for these types of records."

He hasn't lost a set at a major tournament since dropping the second set of last year's US Open final against Andy Roddick.

Federer won the next two sets that day to win that title, then won all seven of his matches at the Australian Open in January in straight sets—becoming the first man to win a Grand Slam championship without dropping a set since Bjorn Borg at the 1980 French Open.

Sunday's result also extended Federer's dominance over Youzhny. Federer improved to 10-0 against the Russian.

In the quarterfinals, Federer will face No. 9 Tommy Robredo of Spain, who beat No. 29 Filippo Volandri of Italy, 6-2, 7-5, 6-1.

In other fourth-round matches, No. 4 Nikolay Davydenko of Russia beat No. 15 David Nalbandian of Argentina, 6-3, 7-6 (1), 3-6, 7-6 (2), and No. 19 Guillermo Canas of Argentina ousted Juan Monaco of Argentina, 6-0, 6-4, 6-2. *AP*

Spurs get ready for LeBron, Cavs

SAN ANTONIO—LEBRON JAMES is now the San Antonio Spurs' problem.

The Cavaliers star, in just his fourth season, has led Cleveland to its first-ever NBA finals. With his performance in the Eastern Conference finals, James has lifted an entire city's hopes onto his shoulders.

And he's bringing that load with him to Texas for Game 1 on Thursday

"They're real excited about it. And you can tell in the way they're talking, the type of celebration they had last night," San Antonio's Tim Duncan said Sunday. "They're super-excited and they're coming in here on a high. And we have to counter that, we can't play into that. Those guys are going to be as confident as anything and I think the confidence is what carries you."

James' career playoff-high 48 points in the Game 5 double-overtime win against the Detroit Pistons were a turning point for Cleveland. The Cavs, led by James and rookie Daniel Gibson, followed that with another win Saturday night to eliminate the Pistons.

"Well he scored (48) the other night so he's a pretty good player," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "Pick a problem, we have it, with LeBron. He's fantastic in every way so, pick any aspect of the game, he's a problem."

Bruce Bowen, one of the league's best defenders, will likely guard James the bulk of the time. James has averaged nearly 26 points a game during the playoffs.

The Spurs' Michael Finley, who like James is making his first trip to the finals but is doing it at age 34 instead of 22, called James a "powerful player"... he's a big man, a big kid, rather."

Duncan said it's safe to say James may get more attention on the court, but that the Spurs won't make many changes to their defense.

"You have to respect someone like that and focus a little more of the attention toward him," Duncan said. "But they're going to need a team to beat us, LeBron's not going to do it by himself."

With the spotlight on James, the Spurs, going for their fourth championship in nine years after winning it all in 1999, 2003 and 2005, are relishing what they call their new "bad boys" role.

The Spurs are known as a quiet, reliable and efficient team without flash or pomp, but with plenty of wins. During this year's playoffs, beginning with their second-round series against the Phoenix Suns, the Spurs started drawing a lot more attention.

Their six games against Phoenix were testy, with lots of bumps and bruises and claims of dirty play and unfair suspensions that helped turned the series the Spurs' way. *AP*

K.J. CHOI: Striking it rich. AFP

Choi wrests Memorial crown, pockets $1.1M

UBLIN, OHIO—SOUTH KOREAN K.J. CHOI charged from five strokes behind to win the $6 million Memorial tournament with a near-flawless final round on Sunday.

He gathered six birdies in a blistering front nine to hit the front at the turn, and used a hot putter to preserve his lead and claim a one-stroke victory over American Ryan Moore.

Choi missed only one putt from inside 15 feet, shooting 65 on another ideal day for low scoring at Muirfield Village to finish at 17-under-par 271.

The 37-year-old from Wando, who now lives in Houston, Texas, is the most successful Asian player in PGA Tour history but his fifth win in the US and 11th globally was easily the biggest of his career.

He learned the game from a Jack Nicklaus instruction book, and little did he think that two decades later he would win the great man's tournament.

Moore was already in the clubhouse with a 66, so Choi only had to worry about Adam Scott and Rod Pampling, both one shot behind with two holes left.

But the two Australians made matching bogeys at the 17th and Choi was home, gratefully receiving the congratulations of Nicklaus, along with $1,080,000.

Pampling (72) parred the last to tie for third with Kenny Perry (63), two shots off the pace, while Scott (70) bogeyed the last to tie for fifth, another stroke back. Tiger Woods shot 67 to tie for 15th, eight behind in his final tune-up for the US Open starting next Thursday. *Reuters*

Castrale puts one over Ochoa

MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA—Nicole Castrale parred the first playoff to edge world No. 1 Lorena Ochoa Sunday in the 2.6 million-dollar LPGA Ginn Tribute hosted by Annika Sorenstam.

Castrale erased a three-shot deficit, firing a final-round 71 that included three birdies to pull even with overnight leader Ochoa, the 2006 LPGA Player of the Year who this season ended Sorenstam's lengthy tenure atop the world rankings.

Ochoa carded a 74, opening the door to Castrale with bogeys at 16 and 17. They finished the round tied on 279.

When they returned to the 18th tee the Mexican landed her tee shot in pampas grass behind the hazard line and was forced to take a penalty drop that left her with a difficult third shot out of the left hillside rough.

Castrale, meanwhile, split the fairway with her tee shot, and reached the green in two.

Ochoa did well to get on the green with her third shot, leaving herself a 20-footer for par that she had to make after Castrale two-putted from 30 feet. As Ochoa's attempt slid by the cup, Castrale buried her face in her hands. The 28-year-old became the sixth first-time winner on the LPGA tour this year. *AFP*

NICOLE CASTRALE: Breakthrough victory REUTERS

Donovan eyes return to Florida

DONOVAN

MIAMI—BILLY DONOVAN IS HAVING SECOND thoughts about accepting the Orlando Magic head coaching job and hopes to return to the University of Florida, the Orlando Sentinel reported on its website on Sunday. Just days after joining the NBA team, Donovan has approached both the Magic and Florida officials in an attempt to void his five-year, $27.5 million contract so that he could return to the university, the newspaper reported. Donovan, who guided Florida to back-to-back NCAA championships, was hired as Magic coach on Thursday and introduced to the media on Friday. *Reuters*

ARod powers Yankees past Red Sox

BOSTON—ALEX RODRIGUEZ ENDED A TUmultuous weekend with a tiebreaking homer in the ninth inning against the Yankees' biggest rival.

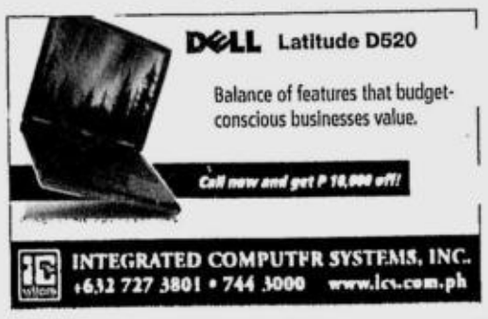
Rodriguez's solo shot on an 0-2 pitch from star closer Jonathan Papelbon gave New York a come-from-behind 6-5 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Sunday night and a 2-1 edge in the series.

Rodriguez was mocked by Red Sox fans during all three games. On Friday night, many of them held masks picturing a blonde-haired woman in front of their faces—a reference to photos published last week of the married Rodriguez with a blonde woman in Toronto.

On Sunday night, they yelled loudly as he settled under a popup four days after he said something as he passed between two Blue Jays infielders, causing one of them to back off and let the ball drop.

And in the ninth, he fell behind 0-2 to Papelbon (0-1), who easily retired the first two batters. But A-Rod lined the next pitch into the Red Sox bullpen in right-center, giving him 20 homers for the 12th straight season.

It also continued his outstanding ninth-inning hitting. This season, he is 7-for-15 with four homers and 11 RBIs in the ninth. The Yankees' comeback from a 5-4 deficit kept them out of last place in the AL East and left them 12½ games behind the first-place Red Sox. *AP*



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Stocks continue to break new ground

Market hits new all-time high; peso strongest in nearly 7 years

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY jumped to a new all-time high, encouraged by rosy economic prospects, gains in other markets and prospects of new investments in the mining sector, brokers said.

Brokers however were also quick to add that the market would soon be taking a breather, after touching new highs.

Yesterday, the peso closed at 45.62 against the US dollar. It was the currency's strongest finish since Sept. 15, 2000, when it closed at 45.59 against the greenback. On Friday, the peso was at 46.08 to the dollar.

The local currency appeared to have shrugged off last week's slide in the Chinese stock market.

The peso remains a market favorite, according to Emmanuel Ng, currency strategist at OCBC Bank.

The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) yesterday surged 75.59 points, or 2.1 percent to a new high at 3,622.94. Year to date, the market has gained 21.47 percent.

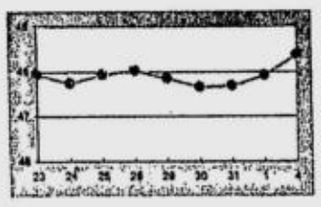
The broader all shares index also grew 1.62 percent or 36.82 points to 2,303.39.

Value turnover grew to P6.49 billion on 3.7 bil-

STOCKS/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



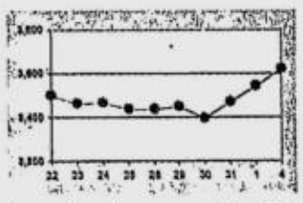
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 45.62 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 4, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

KEY ASIAN players of the mining sector—(from left) Nelia Halcon; Darma Ambiar, Beni Wahjur and Arief Siregar of Indonesia; Benjamin Philip Romualdez of the Philippine Chamber of Mines; Muhamad Nor Muhamad of Malaysia; Chadap Padmasuta of Thailand; Thongpath Inthayong and Dr. Somphavan Inthayong of Lao P.D.R.—link hands to demonstrate their solidarity in promoting and utilizing the mineral resources of the region. RUDY ESPERAS

Mining export revenue seen to hit $2B in '07

By Amy R. Remo

THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION'S annual export revenue from metals is expected to reach $15 billion starting 2010, affirming the region as the world's geological hotspot.

This year alone, the country's export revenue is expected to reach over $2 billion, according to Benjamin Philip Romualdez, Asean Federation of Mining Associations president.

Indonesia's revenue this year is expected to reach around $7 to $8 billion.

"This figure can even go higher, provided that the current mining investment climate remains stable, and once revenues from the big-ticket projects start to kick in," said Romualdez, who is also the president of the local Chamber of Mines.

Romualdez told reporters that the Philippines' export revenues from metals, such as gold, nickel, copper and silver, amounted to about $1.3 billion in 2006 and $800 million in 2005.

Meanwhile, Indonesia's export revenue in 2005 alone reached over $3 billion.

Romualdez said that the Philippines, as well as Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, have a competitive advantage over mineral producing countries in Latin America.

"We in the Asia-Pacific region are best poised to serve the needs of the mineral-hungry economies of China, India, Japan and Korea, since we are nearer to these countries," Romualdez explained. "The cost of freight and shipping would be much less than if it were to be shipped from Chile, for instance."

He added that geographical location has become very critical as well.

For instance, he said, the difference of shipping from Australia and from Indonesia to China is $7 a ton. And if you're shipping millions of tons every year, then the shipping cost becomes substantial to your operations.

Romualdez said that the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Laos can be "the mineral resource bloc of the whole Asia Pacific region."

The Asian continent itself has been proven to be rich in mineral and energy resources.

Petroleum and natural gas resources are found throughout most of Asia, with the greatest concentration found in Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Western India and Philippines.

MINING/ B3

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After gaining in RP market, SSS all set to invest abroad

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) said it was preparing to invest offshore to further beef up its fund and take advantage of alternative income opportunities.

According to Corazon dela Paz, SSS president and chief executive officer, the pension fund is now searching for financial advisers that will help facilitate its offshore investments.

Dela Paz said the SSS charter allows it to invest as much as 7.5 percent of its reserves in foreign-denominated instruments, but so far the pension fund manager's investments are still purely domestic.

She said the drop in interest rates on government securities has encouraged the SSS to invest in foreign denominated assets.

Without elaborating on figures, Dela Paz said that the bullish stock market has generated "substantial" income for the pension fund, and the additional income enables it to carry out more investments.

The SSS earlier reported that the actuarial life of its fund would last until 2038, an improvement from the life span of only until 2019 reported a few years back.

But Dela Paz noted that the estimated life span of until 2038 has not yet factored in the income earned from the rise in stock market prices in the first quarter. She said that the actuarial life of the fund would by now have already been stretched further.

The SSS has several equity investments in blue chip stocks. These include shares in San Miguel Corp. (SMC) and Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), which she said the SSS was contemplating on selling—in line with the national government's privatization thrust.

The Department of Finance earlier said it was encouraging concerned government entities to make a joint sale of their shares in Meralco, believing that selling as a bloc would attract a higher price.

"We are studying the DOF's proposal of a joint sale," Dela Paz yesterday said at the the sidelines of an economic forum co-organized by the World Bank and the National Economic and Development Authority, among other organizations. "If this could really give a higher return, then we are open to it."

The plan of the SSS to invest offshore came after the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) announced that it would engage in investing in foreign currency denominated instruments to boost its income potential.

The SSS provides social security to employees from the private sector, while the GSIS services government employees.

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The China bubble

MR. BEARBULL
Ron Nathan

I HAVE BEEN PROMISING my daughter that I would take her bowling and my wife wanted to come, too, so off we went for a day to remember. Cheryl was not very good and kept rolling the ball into the gutter so my wife, whose biceps are larger than those of Arnold Schwarznegger, showed her how it should be done. She threw the ball with such force that it not only knocked over the 10 pins, it went right through the back and across the mall with the speed of a bullet. It shot across the ice rink knocking down about all the skaters and then into the food hall, demolishing tables and chairs. One poor woman lay on the ground covered in hamburger and ketchup while another man tipped a plate of spaghetti over the lady next to him, apologizing profusely saying he thought it was lasagna.

A security alarm sounded, all exits were sealed, and sprinklers soaked all the people, guards dressed in black like ninjas descended from ropes in the ceiling. My spouse hid in the nearest toilet and I was interrogated. Obviously, I could not have done it but I described a 7-foot man with metal teeth named Jaws. The guards eventually arrested a man with three fingers, suspected of stealing bowling balls. The damage was appalling, my wife's finger swelled up and she had to go to a *hilot*. As for Cheryl, she ached all over next day and I had to quit my job as a skating instructor. Altogether, it was a disastrous day.

I suggested to my wife that she should go on a diet. Her seatbelt has stretch marks!

* * *

On Tuesday night, local time, Alan Greenspan sabotaged the buoyant stock market by declaring the inevitability of a China bubble. In the international portion of my daily newsletter, I wrote, "The market in China collapsed after the government tripled the stamp duly from 0.1 percent to 0.3 percent in an attempt to quell the rampant speculation that is taking place. Accounts are being opened at over 300,000 a day, mostly by totally uninformed speculators who are selling all their assets to buy shares. It was even rumored that prostitutes had quit wholesale in order to play the stock market. There are over 100 million accounts and, if left unchecked, this will eventually result in the most disastrous selldown ever seen.

I applaud the government's action but feel that it was totally inadequate. In the Philippines, we have a sales tax of 0.5 percent and that does not deter anyone. Much tougher measures are needed if they are to avoid Greenspan's bleak but correct scenario. The reason for the correction is based on sound measures and I hope that other countries will understand this." Since May 29, the CSI 300 index has tumbled 13 percent but this has not affected stock markets, which welcome this as an overdue and healthy correction.

All markets were up again including the Phisix, which had a meteoric rise on Friday due to net foreign buying of P1.2 billion and again on Monday due to net foreign buying of P1.34 billion. The Dow and the S&P 500 hit new record highs while the Nasdaq made a 6-year high. May was the third up month in a row with the indices gaining between 3 percent and 4.5 percent. The old adage, "Sell in May and go away," did not work this year. Employers added 157,000 new jobs compared with the revised 80,000 for April so there is no sign of the economy slowing. The unemployment rate was steady at 4.5 percent and average hourly earnings rose 0.3 percent, in line with economists' forecast. Personal income unexpectedly declined in May while personal spending rose. There is nothing in these figures to alarm Bernanke.

As expected, the talks between Paulson and the Chinese did not produce any tangible results though both sides are trying to find a compromise to avoid the United States imposing tariffs on selected Chinese products. Any further appreciation of the yuan will be gradual and will not solve the problem of the trade deficit.

At home, President Arroyo announced that the GDP for the first quarter had risen by 6.9 percent, the fastest pace in 17 years and well above the expected 5.7 percent. Foreign buying throughout May helped push the Phisix to a new high. Asian stocks also made record highs and metal prices rose, pushing up stocks like BHP. Crude oil also rose and the oil companies raised their prices by 50-centavos a liter for the third week running.

The peso remained strong but exporters have not been squealing because most other currencies have also appreciated against the dollar so competitiveness has not been eroded. Shipments to China surged 46 percent due to sales of nickel ore known as laterite (I hope I spelled the latter right). China's huge demand for pig iron is due to the fact that this is the year of the pig.

With 1-year bills out of favor, the Treasury has canceled further sales for the time being and issued P6 billion 5-year bonds and P6 billion 6-year bonds, which were well oversubscribed. The danger of fiscal slippage remains but the government plans to raise funds from the sale of SMC, MER, PNB and some PNOC power plants.

The 7th Asia-Pacific Mining Conference starts today and all the major players will be here so there should be interest in mining stocks. Atlas Mining obtained its $100 million loan from Deutsche Bank so it can go ahead with the rehabilitation of the Carmen Copper mine and production of copper and gold should start by the 1st quarter of 2008. Carmen Copper recently disclosed plans to go public and its application is with the PSE. Atlas has also started shipping nickel one from its Berong project and has already made 7 shipments to China with a target for the year of 920,000 dry tons. Its estimated resources are 275 million dry tons. I telephoned Berong but got the Berong number.

Read the China Bubble by singer Michael Buble. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

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EEI CORPORATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the **2007 Annual Stockholders' Meeting** of **EEI CORPORATION** will be held on **June 15, 2007**, at **10:00 a.m.** at **RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila**, to consider and act upon the following matters:

1. Certification of Sending of Notices and Quorum.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on June 09, 2006.
3. Chairman and CEO's Report/Review of Operations.
   a. 2006 Highlights
   b. Outlook for 2007
4. Approval of the Annual Report and Ratification of the Actions of the Board of Directors/Officers.
5. Election of Directors.
6. Appointment of External Auditors.
7. Transaction of other business which may come before the meeting.
8. Adjournment.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 31, 2007 as the record date for the purpose of determining the Company's stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the said meeting.

Stockholders who cannot attend the meeting but would like to be represented thereat, should accomplish the proxy form which have been mailed to them together with the Agenda, Information Statement, and Annual Report, and return the same to the Office of the Corporation Secretary not later than 24 hours before the meeting, for validation of proxies entitled to vote.

(Sgd.) **FERDINAND G. VILLAFUERTE**
Senior Vice President & Corporate Secretary

(PDI - June 5, 2007)

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AGI sets offer price at ₱5.75 per share

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ALLIANCE GLOBAL GROUP INC., THE holding firm of taipan Andrew Tan, is raising P18 billion from a shares offering, Banco de Oro Capital & Investment Corp. president Eduardo Francisco said.

The offer price was set at P5.75 per share.

Francisco said this was so far the largest additional offering of shares in the country.

AGI's total offer is composed of 3.1 billion shares—1.8 billion new shares and up to 1.33 billion shares held by a shareholder.

AGI completed its international offering of shares last June 2 which, underwriters said, generated very strong demand.

The domestic offering will start on June 6 until 13. The listing of the shares will be on June 18.

In view of the additional offering, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) suspended the trading of AGI shares starting yesterday, June 4. Trading will resume on June 18, the company's listing date.

AGI is spending P10 billion to repay debt, and to finance acquisitions in the food and beverage sector and other investments starting this year, officials earlier said.

Emperador Distillers Inc. (EDI) president Winston Co earlier said that of the amount, P1 billion would be used for debt repayment and another P1 billion for acquisitions.

EDI is the manufacturer of Emperador and Generoso brandy.

"The remaining P8 billion will form part of (the budget for) expansion and refinery vertical integration," he said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 4, 2007)

52-WEEKS HIGH	52-WEEKS LOW	STOCK	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.1	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12	12.25	12	12.25	247,000
71	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	66.5	67.5	66	67.5	1,817,100
73	42.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	69	70.5	69	70	1,989,100
935	630	China Banking Corp.	910	910	900	900	350
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.25	500
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.55	510,000
68.5	29	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	67.5	68.5	67.5	68.5	8,033,400
56.5	30.5	Philippine National Bank	54	54	53	53	51,400
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63.5	63	63.5	3,700
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	31.5	33	31.5	32	3,419,100
90	41	Security Bank Corp.	83	83	81.5	82	78,200
66	40.55	Union Bank of the Philippines	63	64	63	64	1,740,000
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
7.8	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.8	3,158,000
6.5	3.5	Filipino Fund Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	3,000
0.8	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	40,000
39	27	First Metro Investment Corp.	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	1,600
1,800.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,680.00	1,680.00	1,680.00	1,680.00	190
5	4.15	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.4	4.4	4.35	4.4	3,887,000
2.9	0.97	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.85	443,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	620	645	620	645	48,840
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	670
1.94	1.08	Wantage Corp	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.74	3,256,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
64.5	41	First Gen Corp	64.5	64.5	63	63	1,549,000
88	40.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	82	88	82	86	2,522,000
12.75	6.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.5	1,173,600
102	13.5	Manila Electric Company A	99.5	102	98	98	409,200
104	20.25	Manila Electric Company B	100	104	98.5	99	2,234,900
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	29,846,000
5.7	3.35	Petron Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	2,891,000
2.38	1.6	Salcon Power Corp.	2.38	2.38	2.32	2.32	4,000
1.62	0.89	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.54	1.54	1.48	1.5	1,178,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.5	520,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.2	2.24	2.16	2.22	274,000
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	55.5	56.5	55	55	346,600
6.9	3.5	Pancake House Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	10,000
1.62	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.42	1,437,000
4.05	2.3	Roxas Holdings	2.34	2.38	2.34	2.38	2,250,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. A	66.5	67.5	66.5	67	189,900
88	68.5	San Miguel Corp. B	77	78	76.5	76.5	425,300
0.51	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	410,000
4.3	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	10,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp	16	16	15.75	16	4,356,700
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
5.8	1.07	EEI Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.5	5.8	3,213,000
4.5	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	160,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.6	2,752,000
7	1.2	Republic Cement Corp.	5.3	5.8	5.3	5.8	466,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.9	1.9	1.86	1.88	4,812,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.9	814,000
0.82	0.5	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	0.72	0.72	0.69	0.69	120,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.13	0.06	[illegible]	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.34	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
4.05	1.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.7	3.8	193,000
0.095	0.022	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.0875	0.09	0.0875	0.0875	58,200,000
1.14	0.17	APC Group Inc.	1	1.04	0.99	1	37,880,000
0.018	0.006	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	71,200,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	9.1	9.2	9	9.1	4,123,000
0.017	0.0065	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	20,000,000
1.04	0.45	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc	0.85	0.85	0.83	0.84	890,000
2.5	0.83	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.32	2.5	2.3	2.48	16,266,000
5.6	0.8	Anes Prime Resources Inc.	3.1	5.6	3.1	4.1	164,000
566.67	272.92	Ayala Corp.	540	565	540	555	262,730
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.65	4.8	4.65	4.8	129,000
5.2	0.97	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.95	5.2	4.8	4.95	35,313,000
9.5	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.1	9.5	9.1	9.4	4,680,000
6.7	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.5	1,861,000
3.55	1.14	House of Investments Inc.	2.95	3	2.9	2.9	566,000
14.5	5.3	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.5	12.5	12	12.5	1,002,100
0.43	0.185	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	1,980,000
0.88	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.54	0.59	230,000
18.75	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	18.5	18.75	17.75	18	2,875,000
4.9	0.19	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.55	3,296,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,000
0.63	0.155	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	6,530,000
445	205	SM Investments Corp.	432.5	445	430	445	369,500
2.2	0.6	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.6	1.74	1.6	1.74	240,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.65	0.65	47,870,000
0.85	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.71	610,000
1.56	0.68	South China Resources Inc.	1.44	1.54	1.44	1.52	496,000
0.35	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.3	0.35	0.28	0.3	45,980,000
0.58	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.59	0.58	0.58	0.59	150,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Company Inc.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	631,000
0.58	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	400,000
17.5	8.54	Ayala Land Inc	16.75	17.5	16.5	17.5	35,460,700
1.72	0.95	Belle Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.62	1.62	8,250,000
4.5	1.18	C and P Homes Inc.	4.2	4.25	4.05	4.05	2,684,000
4.7	1.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.55	4.4	4.55	755,000
0.67	0.24	Crown Equities Inc	0.65	0.67	0.64	0.65	6,380,000
0.6	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.55	0.57	9,830,000
3.1	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	50,000
0.89	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.85	0.81	0.81	27,680,000
0.31	0.027	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.3	46,270,000
1.12	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.94	1,130,000
2.04	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.96	2.02	1.96	2	44,879,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	23,000,000
0.016	0.005	Interport Resources Corp. B	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	65,700,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	10,990,000
0.99	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc	0.79	0.82	0.76	0.76	9,290,000
4.25	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	4	4.25	4	4.2	131,966,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.4	4.55	4.4	4.5	190,000
0.42	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.38	0.42	0.37	0.37	80,670,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.64	0.64	49,620,000
4.1	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.95	4.1	3.95	4	509,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	20.75	20.75	20.25	20.5	5,272,100
5.2	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	2,056,000
14	6.9	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	13.5	14	13.5	13.75	20,508,800
0.96	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.7	0.71	770,000
0.35	0.05	Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.34	0.35	0.32	0.32	28,410,000
1.74	0.3	Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc	1.32	1.42	1.32	1.38	5,406,000
		MEDIA					
34	13.5	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	33.5	34	33	33	159,300
1.14	0.37	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	5,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.1	1.12	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.58	1.58	1,492,000
1,445.00	820	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,395.00	1,425.00	1,395.00	1,425.00	97,640
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,600.00	2,640.00	2,600.00	2,630.00	372,740
7.9	3.1	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.3	7.3	7	7.1	6,090,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.155	Boulevard Holdings Inc	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	22,540,000
9	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.4	53,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	844,000
0.0875	0.046	ISM Communications Corp.	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.07	241,900,000
0.033	0.011	Imperial Resources Inc. A	0.029	0.031	0.029	0.031	17,400,000
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.18	2.22	2.16	2.16	340,000
0.075	0.038	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.07	41,700,000
1.84	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.54	1.62	1.54	1.62	1,390,000
0.06	0.027	Philweb Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.05	0.0525	342,800,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc	2.14	2.1	2.1	2.1	[illegible]
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.88	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	[illegible]
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	6	6	5.9	5.9	1,239,000
32	12.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	27	28.5	27	28.5	1,487,500
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	30,000
1.74	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	2,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.5	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.85	[illegible]
0.91	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc	0.87	0.88	0.79	0.8	13,070,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	1.08	1.12	1.04	1.1	[illegible]
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	8	8	7.9	7.9	9,000
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	28,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
5.2	1.84	Macroasia Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	1,266,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.5	1,122,600
30	9.5	Paxys Inc	26.5	26.5	25.5	26	66,100
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	77,000,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.6	434,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	89,000
21.25	5.6	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	18.5	18.75	17.75	18.75	3,586,300
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. A	13.25	14.25	13.25	13.75	371,700
35	20	Benguet Corp. B	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	100
4	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	2.95	3.2	2.95	3.2	532,000
2.6	0.0602	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.55	2.6	2.46	2.5	58,009,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	5,410,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	3,400,000
0.038	0.0154	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	116,500,000
0.041	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.039	0.039	0.038	0.038	462,400,000
0.024	0.0075	Omico Corp.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	197,000,000
6.4	2.65	Philex Mining Corp.	6.2	6.2	6	6.1	5,969,000
30	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27.5	27	27.5	31,900
1.2	0.25	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	3,366,000
1.8	0.41	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.48	1.52	1.48	1.48	10,570,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.23	Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.43	0.44	9,340,000
0.021	0.008	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	166,300,000
0.022	0.009	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	19,400,000
14.62	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.25	10.25	10	10	66,800
0.025	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	758,500,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

CURRENCIES

June 4, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.743716	1.000000	46.1220
Japan	Yen	0.006093	0.008193	0.3779
United Kingdom	Pound	1.474119	1.982100	91.4184
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095231	0.128048	5.9058
Switzerland	Franc	0.604696	0.813074	37.5006
Canada	Dollar	0.701222	0.942863	43.4867
Singapore	Dollar	0.485739	0.653125	30.1234
Australia	Dollar	0.618269	0.831324	38.3423
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.972773	2.652590	122.3428
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198313	0.266652	12.2985
Brunei	Dollar	0.484158	0.650999	30.0254
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000113	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.022605	0.030395	1.4019
UAE	Dirham	0.202570	0.272376	12.5625
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.344600	62.0156
Korea	Won	0.000801	0.001077	0.0497
China	Yuan**	0.097252	0.130765	6.0311
Brazil	Real	0.391326	0.526177	24.2683
Denmark	Kroner	0.134232	0.180489	8.3245
India	Rupee	0.018459	0.024820	1.1447
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218869	0.294291	13.5733
Mexico	New Peso	0.069376	0.093283	4.3024
New Zealand	Dollar	0.552948	0.743494	34.2914
South Africa	Rand	0.104874	0.141014	6.5038
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022521	0.030282	1.3967

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—June 1, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of June 1, 2007

Mine your own business

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

PSSST, DID YOU HEAR that the world's big boys in the mining business are in town?

Our own Philippine Chamber of Mines is in fact hosting those executives of multibillion-dollar companies in a weeklong Asia-Pacific mining conference here.

Even without thinking, we should only expect the big boys to want to get clear direction for the mining industry in this country.

For one, you have the anti-mining noise from the so-called "civil society," i.e., Church and environmental groups. As a result, the whole world is getting mixed signals from this cute administration on its mining policy. The DENR for instance is still stingy in issuing even just "exploration" permits.

Look, those are not even "mining" permits yet. They just allow mining companies to look underground for mineral deposits, okay!

Yet nobody can deny that world commodity prices are rising. And this country is rich in mineral resources—said to be worth trillions of pesos.

That's why the big boys are taking interest in mining investments in this country, or any country in the region that welcomes them, for that matter.

In business, they are saying that this country cannot afford to tell the big boys to mind their own mine business elsewhere. We need to ride on the world commodity boom.

Hey, we have to compete with other countries for the investments from those big boys, okay!

* * *

Anyway, one important figure in the mining conference here is Charlie Sartain, CEO of Xtrata Copper, which is part of the Xtrata Pfc., which in turn is the world's fifth largest mining group, listed in Australia with a market capitalization of $56 billion.

Yes, it's the same Xtrata that just bought controlling interest in the Tampakan copper mine in Mindanao last December.

In this Asia-Pacific conference, in which top government officials and executives will try to chart the future of mining in the region, Sartain is scheduled to give a talk on Xtrata's experience in the Tampakan mines, said to be one of the largest but still "idle" copper deposits in the world.

This much I know about the Tampakan Project: Even before Xtrata and its local partners could extract an ounce of ore, it has already spent hundreds of millions of pesos for the communities in its mine site.

In other words, not all mining companies are irresponsible, abusive, greedy devils that some groups may want us to believe.

* * *

Fraser Institute, a Canada-based think-tank known for its studies on "free market" versus "government intervention" as economic development tools, recently put the Philippines at the bottom of its list of attractive countries for mining investments.

In reaction, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines EVP Nelia Halcon said that the recent entry of investments somehow discredits the report.

It was actually based on a survey of mining executives abroad.

Thus, Halcon concluded that the report should only give us an idea on how the government's mining policy is perceived from the outside.

For instance, about 70 percent of respondents to the Fraser Institute survey indicated "security and political stability" as factors discouraging investments here.

Really now!

* * *

Word is going around that the stock market's favorite mining company in the past few months, the one called Geograce Resources, will exercise option agreements over 30,000 hectares of mining property claims in Zambales, Palawan and Bukidnon.

This is the company that partnered with the Australian mining firm Rusina and the Canadian company Chemical Vapour Metal Refining.

I mention this company because it is one of the more bullish groups in the industry today. Its expat vice president for exploration, Neil Morton, says that foreign investments in the sector can easily reach $800 million this year.

Being the darling of stock market investors, Geograce was able to issue stock rights worth almost P600 million. This means that it has the funding for the exploration of those 30,000 hectares of mining claims it just acquired.

Now, Rusina just announced the start of drilling for nickel and platinum deposits in the Geograce project in Zambales, in what used to be known as Acoje.

The Acoje mine is already producing chromite.

But it is also one of the rare sites that has produced so-called "platinum group metals" outside the bigtime mines in Zimbabwe in Africa, and in Montana in the US.

And here's more: In the past year or so, the world prices of nickel already doubled from $10 to $20 per pound.

* * *

Following is the continuation of the letter from Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo, in reaction to our column item on her 12 trips abroad in 12 months:

"As a Regulator, there is a need to attend regional and international insurance regulators' meetings and to actively participate in the discussion of the many issues in insurance and also to learn the regional and global best practices. The Insurance Commission must also herald the progress of the Philippine insurance industry in many international fora.

"By the way, half of my official trips were paid by the inviting parties.

"Rest assured that my trips are not junket. In all my foreign meetings and seminars, I never missed a single session. You might also take pride to know as a Filipino that in my first attendance to the Asian Reinsurance Corp.'s Council Meeting, I was elected as vice chair. It was for that reason that I had to take another trip to Bangkok recently, to attend a Management Board meeting, with all expenses paid by the Asian Re.

"Mr. Banal must have checked first the veracity of any information he received from those 'insiders.' The Commissioner went to Switzerland on Oct. 9, 2006 to attend a 5-day Seminar on Risk Based Supervision and Principles-Based Regulation. I left Switzerland morning of Oct. 15th and did not stay there for three weeks."

We reported in that item that Escobillo just came back from Switzerland, before making a stopover at the expensive island resort of Bali.

She replies: "No stopover was made in Bali. I went to Bali on Nov. 14-18, 2006 to attend the 9th Asean Insurance Regulators Meeting."

Mining export revenue seen to hit $2B in '07

From page B1

According to geologists, most of Asia is built around the ancient Precambrian cratons, which are relatively stable portions of the earth's crust.

These are known to hoard metals such as copper and gold.

The Philippines, for its part, has the greatest number of proven deposits of metallic and nonmetallic minerals.

Of the country's total land area of 30 million hectares, nine million have been identified as having rich metallic mineral deposits.

However, only 1.4 percent of this area have been explored and are covered by mining permits.

The Philippines is said to have about $1 trillion worth of untapped gold, copper and nickel resources.

SECURE your office from THEFT & FRAUD!
Access Control & Timekeeping Devices
with Payroll Software for 30 employees.*
U.are.U P 7,900 VAT INC
• PC Based Fingerprint Device
• With DTR Software
with Payroll Software for 30 employees.*
OA-101 P 9,900 VAT INC
• Standalone Fingerprint Device
• With DTR Software
with Payroll Software for 50 employees.*
OA-101 P 12,500 VAT INC.
• With Built-in Back-up Battery
• Standalone Fingerprint Device
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Professor Danilo A. Antonio, is a member of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE) core faculty as a Guru in the Master in Entrepreneurship (ME) Program. Prof. Antonio also teaches the Development of Enterprise (DE) and Real Estate/Property Management and Finance electives in the Master in Business Administration Program. Prof. Antonio remains active in the Philippine Real Estate industry, where he has accumulated over 27 years of experience in various aspects of the property business. He holds a Master in Business Management degree (With Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La Salle University.

Professor Alejandrino J. Ferreria Ed.D, is the Bank of America Foundation Professor of Business Management at AIM. From 2002 to 2004, he was the Dean of the AIM Asian Center for Entrepreneurship. Prior to his career in AIM, he also held senior executive positions at Guevarra Enterprises (Guevent), and helped form Unifoods International Corporation (post-mix distributor of Pepsi-Cola). Prof. Ferreria, who holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from Ateneo de Manila and an MBA from the University of the Philippines, currently sits on the boards of Goodyear Philippines, Pascual Laboratories, Construction Mgmt. & Dev't. Foundation, Filipino Car Foundation, and Channel Technologies.

Professor Tomas B. Lopez is the Don Demetrio Tuason Professor of Agribusiness at AIM, and AIM's Guru of services marketing and the emerging field of one-to-one marketing. A graduate of AIM's Master in Management program (with Distinction), his areas of specialization include Social Marketing, Development Communication, Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, Strategic Management, and Information Technology. He is President and CEO of the Club Noah Group of Companies operating the world-famous Club Noah-Isabelle in Northern Palawan. He is co-founder of Seair, an airline serving tourist destinations in Palawan, Surigao and Boracay, currently serves as President of the University of Makati.

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Yap says DBM study ill-timed, erroneous

By Amy R. Remo

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ARTHUR C. YAP has strongly disagreed with a Department of Budget and Management study that claimed that efforts to attain self-sufficiency in rice were 'both costly and illusory.'

"This study is ill-timed and the basis and foundations of the arguments are erroneous. Why call it illusory when funds are flowing in and rice production is steadily increasing?" asked Yap.

In a paper, the DBM questioned the country's policy of attaining self-sufficiency in rice through costly market interventions which, it said, only resulted in losses by the billions of pesos.

Confidential DBM documents, which outlined a proposed budget strategy for 2008 to 2010, showed a call for institutional reforms in the DA and its attached agencies—the National Food Authority and National Irrigation Authority.

The paper claimed the country had a 'comparative disadvantage' in rice growing.

Yap pointed out that his department's national rice program had started bearing fruits as rice production had been increasing steadily.

Rice production in the first quarter this year reached 3.68 million metric tons, up 1.69 percent from 3.62 million MT in the same period last year.

The agriculture secretary said that when the DA started its program in 2001 and 2002, rice production was at only about 12 million MT, last year it was about 15 million MT.

For the same number of hectares planted to *palay*, he said, the country's rice production increased due to continuous investments in irrigation, seed technology, and post-harvest and storage facilities.

Yap stressed that rice production accounted for 18 percent of the total farm sector production. Agriculture, as a whole, accounts for 4.2 percent of the country's gross domestic product, of which rice is the biggest contributor.

"Have they talked to farmers in Nueva Ecija like Jojo Garcia who now earns P80,000-P90,000 a hectare because of these 'costly investments?'" Yap asked.

"We can't put an end to spending for irrigation, for instance, because it is the basic foundation to making our country self sufficient. And no case has shown that these investments have failed."

He added that it took long to achieve this dream of rice self-sufficiency because before, "we have not been consistent and focused."

Yap said rice self-sufficiency could be called illusory and costly if there were no funds.

Napocor plants may be sold in packages

PSALM strategy under review

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando M. Tetangco (left) accepts the Saga (Seven Achiever Government Agencies Awards) from GSIS President Winston F. Garcia and board of trustees chair Bernandino R. Abes during the 70th anniversary celebration of the GSIS. The award recognizes GSIS-remitting agencies that stood out from 2001-2006 for their passion for service and excellence.

By Abigail L. Ho

POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND Liabilities Management Corp. is considering selling the remaining National Power Corp. generation assets by portfolio, instead of individually.

In a speech before members of the energy committee of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, PSALM president Jose Ibazeta said the government agency was studying a proposal to do 'packaged privatization' instead of selling on a per-plant basis.

The decision on whether to shift strategies, he said, would rely on investor feedback.

He said PSALM was in the process of reviewing its privatization structures to ensure that these remained responsive to market requirements.

"It is not enough that the government create opportunities for investment, it must also be reasonably open to investors' needs," he added.

To encourage potential investors to infuse much-needed capital into the country's power sector, he said PSALM was conducting regular dialogues with them to thresh out whatever issues there were in relation to the government's privatization efforts.

PSALM would also be launching more aggressive marketing efforts to further expand its investment base and generate investor feedback, he said.

He said the agency was planning to increase the existing 11-percent privatization level to 50 percent by the end of the year and to 70 percent by end-2008.

This year, PSALM has scheduled for auction the Masinloc and Calaca coal-fired power plants, both rated at 600 megawatts.

PSALM may also bid out within the year the Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plants and some geothermal facilities, if feasible.

The government agency has so far raised $436 million from partial payments for the plants that it has sold since 2004. Total proceeds should be $664 million, once all plants have been fully paid.

Ibazeta said the proceeds would be used to pay off the maturing loans of Napocor.

Airlines winning more passengers, but losing cargoes

By Riza T. Olchondra

VANCOUVER, CANADA—AIR PASSENger demand in Asia-Pacific, including the Philippines, has grown at a better-than-expected rate, but freight is being lost to the shipping industry, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said in the run-up to the World Air Transport Summit on June 3 to 5.

The group's traffic results showed that passenger demand in Asia for the first four months of 2007 was 6.2 percent higher than year-ago level. The Middle East was the fastest-growing region in terms of passenger demand, posting 17.6 percent growth.

Africa, which enjoys growing links with Asia and the Middle East, follows with 10.1 percent. Europe (6 percent) and North America (5.4 percent) came in at fourth and fifth places, respectively. Only Latin America suffered a decline due to industry restructuring.

The figures translate to a 6.7-percent total growth for passenger demand in the first quarter.

In a statement issued prior to the summit, IATA director general and CEO Giovanni Bisignani said the increase could be attributed to a relatively strong global economy.

He, however, admitted that the economic boom was not being felt the same way in the air cargo business.

"Freight demand is showing much more price sensitivity ... Sea shipping is taking a greater proportion of the benefits," Bisignani said.

Despite the slower freight demand growth, the IATA chief said there still were lots of "good news" in air transport as airlines were emerging into profitability after six years and $42 billion in losses.

"Liberalized agreements between the US and Europe and the US and China are opening up important markets. And new aircraft on the horizon will create new fuel-efficient opportunities for both hub and point-to-point traffic," he said.

These and other issues concerning the airline industry, including liberalization and IT-driven innovation, will be discussed in IATA's annual general meeting and summit at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver, Canada.

People, Events & Products

Maybank builds up overseas operations

MAYBANK, MALAYSIA'S LARGEST banking group, is gearing up to widen its overseas operations to make it account for at least a third of the group's revenue in three years' time.

The group has an appetite for acquisitions, but until it manages to find a suitable opportunity, it will continue to set up its own branches abroad.

This was revealed by Maybank president and chief executive officer Datuk Amirsham Aziz in a recent interview with Business Times, a leading English-language business newspaper in Asia. He was quoted saying, "While we are waiting for the right acquisition, we're putting a lot of effort and gearing up the organic growth of some locations."

President Aziz added, "Today, the contribution from our international branches is in the region of 20 percent in terms of group revenue. It used to be 10-15 percent. We are looking at moving into 30 percent by 2010, through organic growth and acquisition."

Maybank recently posted a US$3.6 billion (P184.7 billion) revenue in the last fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, and analysts say that the bank has to rely on its overseas markets to help spur future growth amid continuing consolidation and tougher competition at home.

Maybank has 84 offices in 12 countries, with Singapore being its most profitable market with 22 branches and posting a 31 percent growth in 2006. Maybank has likewise established a foothold in the Philippines with 45 branches nationwide, the second largest in branch network next to Malaysia.

Maybank has recently announced its intentions to grow in markets like Asean, South Asia and parts of China. The bank is also exploring ways to take its Islamic banking expertise outside Malaysia.

Indonesia, Pakistan and the Middle East in general were cited as potential markets for Maybank to grow its Islamic banking business. In Indonesia, where Maybank has 3 branches, the bank plans to set up more branches while waiting for acquisition opportunities to come along. This is also true for Cambodia, where Maybank hopes to set another branch soon in addition to its lone branch in Phnom Penh, and in Vietnam, where it currently has 2 branches.

TSPI APPOINTS BPI ASSET MANAGEMENT AS FUND MANAGER

TSPI Development Corp, a leading micro-finance, non-stock, non-profit organization whose mission is to help eradicate poverty in the Philippines through livelihood and capacity building support for the development of micro and small entrepreneurs, recently appointed BPI Asset Management, the country's leading trust institution, as fund manager of the TSPI Employee Retirement Fund. In photo are (front row, from left), TSPI representatives: Ruben C. De Lara, executive director; Rene E. Cristobal, president and from BPI: Aurelio R. Montinola, III, president; Adelbert A. Legasto, executive vice president/trust officer and Susan M. Manalo, vice president; (back row from left) Hernan B. Bariring, chief financial and administrative officer (TSPI); lawyer Dominador F. Chipeco Jr., director for human resources and legal affairs (TSPI); Cynthia S. Makasiar, vice president (BPI); Lorna M. Asuncion, assistant finance manager (TSPI); Emily C. Onglingchuan, senior manager (BPI).

FEDEX, GAWAD KALINGA INAUGURATE FIRST 'SIBOL' SCHOOL

FedEx Express (FedEx), a subsidiary of FedEx Corp and the world's largest express transportation company, joined non-profit organization, Gawad Kalinga (GK), in the inauguration of the first 'FedEx-Gawad Kalinga Sibol school' in Cubic Side in Merville of Parañaque City, which will benefit about 60 families located inside and out of Cubic, in this school year. This is the first of eight 'FedEx-Gawad Kalinga Sibol schools' that have been or will be constructed across the Philippines, in order to deliver education to pre-school-aged children in underprivileged communities across the country. In addition to sponsoring the building of the schools, FedEx will fund the salaries of two teachers per school for two years. Shown are FedEx Express volunteers led by Sam David (3rd from right, second row), FedEx Philippines country manager, together with Parañaque mayor Jun Bernabe (4th from right, second row) plant the seeds of hope for the children of Cubic Side, Merville, Parañaque with the inauguration of FedEx's Sibol School.

SPORTSFEAST LAUNCHED AT GLORIETTA

The Toby's Sportsfeast Multi-Sports Event opened April 27 at the Glorietta Activity Area, Makati. The play-all-you-can event featured a smorgasbord of sports challenges and clinics for sports such as basketball, futsal, badminton, wall climbing, table tennis, duathlon and boxing. The event also featured a sports and fitness sale of Toby's top brands offered at big discounts and 0 percent interest. The event ran up to April 29 at the Glorietta and then will shift to the new Trinoma Mall in North Edsa on June 8-10. Doing the ceremonial shots/serves are from left: Rod Nepomuceno, managing director of Crush Philippines; Bobby Claudio, chair of Toby's Sports; Rod Claudio of Prince Philippines; Lulu Luengco of Tribu; Aiem Bautista of Nike; Jojo Claudio, president and Toby Claudio, operations manager of Toby's Sports. This event is sponsored by Toby's Sports, Ayala Malls, Crush Philippines, Nike, Tribu, Stiga, Prince, EAS, HIT 99.5FM, Solar Sports and Action & Fitness.

Lafarge, WWF team up in climate change exhibit

STARTING JUNE 5 UNTIL JUNE 17, THE "Earth in Time of Climate Change" is on display at Greenbelt 3. Philippine cement leader Lafarge Semento is supporting the World Wildlife Fund Philippines (WWF) in this initiative to boost public awareness on the threats to the environment through visual and performing arts. For this exhibit, LCSPI will be lending four of its 15 cement artworks coming out of its fellowship with premier Filipino sculptors to showcase their masterpieces depicting symbols of progress. Impy Pilapil, Arnel Borja, Dr. Ton Raymundo have Anthony Nieves have used Portland Plus for their artworks and in making this product the Lafarge Associated Companies have used biomass as alternative fuel. In this way Lafarge Associated Companies significantly reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and its carbon dioxide emissions. Both Lafarge Cement Services (Philippines) Inc and WWF are committed to the concept of sustainable development. Their ongoing partnership seeks to raise the bar particularly in terms of improving environmental performance, strengthening policies and practices, as well as raising awareness on sustainability and biodiversity conservation to positively influence the building industry. This partnership is part of a global pact between Lafarge, the world leader in building materials, and the WWF, a renowned international conservation organization. Lafarge is a founding member of the WWF's Conservation Partner Program.

Product FILES

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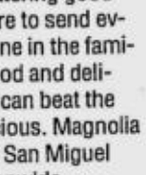

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Ice cream for your little kings

MAGNOLIA, ONE OF THE PIONEER BRANDS IN ice cream in the country, goes a step further in making ice cream readily available and affordable for everyone with its Limited Edition, low-priced ice cream. One of this is King's Chocolate Sundae-licious. This imported line from Magnolia is vanilla ice cream with chocolate ripple. It comes in an 800 ml white tub and priced at only P98. Mothers will find this an easy choice not only for the kids but for the entire family as well. Vanilla, one of the oldest flavors used for enhancing foods is universally accepted so a tub of King's Chocolate Sundae-licious is sure to get the nod of everyone. And to sweeten the treat further, the pleasant, mouthwatering goodness of vanilla is enhanced by ripples of chocolate that is sure to send everyone coming back for seconds. Give your kids and everyone in the family fond memories of afternoons spent together with good food and delicious treats. For that ultimate food treat, no other ice cream can beat the flavorful goodness of Magnolia King's Chocolate Sundae-licious. Magnolia King's Chocolate Sundae-licious, another quality product of San Miguel Corp, is available in better groceries and supermarkets nationwide.

Adverse policies stifle growth—Neri

Air, port regulations cited as among the biggest issues

By Michelle V. Remo

ECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY Romulo Neri said the Philippines had been losing potential income of P100 billion to P200 billion a year due to regulatory policies that have adverse effects on growth.

Neri, who is also the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said these losses translated to a reduction in the gross domestic product growth by between one and two percentage points.

The economy, as measured by the country's GDP, grew by 6.9 percent in the first quarter of the year, the highest in 17 years. But Neri said the economy could have easily grown by more than 7 percent if the investment climate was more liberalized.

The government's economic managers earlier said the country needed to grow by at least 7 percent yearly to reduce poverty incidence, noting that current growth has yet to be felt by the poor.

Neri specifically cited the need to liberalize the aviation and the maritime industries.

Doing so would encourage the entry of more tourists and trim the cost of doing business in the country, he said.

The economic chief has been pushing for an open-skies policy which, however, is strongly opposed by domestic airlines. Local airlines warned that opening the country to foreign airlines would be detrimental to domestic players.

Neri is also pushing for the liberalization of the country's ports, saying the lack of competition in the industry of harbor operation was to blame for the high cost of transporting goods and tourists within the country.

He said the current setup of allowing only two players to operate the two major harbors in the country—the North and South Harbors—was disadvantageous to businesses.

International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) was granted the franchise by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to operate the Manila International Container Terminal or the North Harbor, while the Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) has the contract to operate the South Harbor.

Both have a 25-year contract expiring in 2013.

Earlier, Neri alleged that there were a lot of government agencies, including the PPA, that are 'subjected to regulatory capture,' a condition wherein the regulatory policies are influenced by vested interest.

He said it was difficult for some policy reforms to push through because of corruption in some agencies and political indebtedness of a number of politicians to businesses that funded their election campaigns.

PNOC-EC nets P2.6B

By Abigail L. Ho

PNOC EXPORATION CORP., A subsidiary of Philippine National Oil Co., registered a net income of P2.6 billion last year, despite a slight decline in revenue.

Company data showed that 95.6 percent of its profit came from its 10-percent interest in the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project.

Last year's sales revenue fell 7 percent to P6.2 billion from P6.5 billion in 2005, mainly because of the significant reduction in PNOC-EC's "cost recovery" from its Malampaya investments.

The company's cost recovery entitlement dropped to only P2.4 billion in 2006 from P4.1 billion the previous year.

The cost recovery scheme is a Department of Energy-approved incentive for investors in the Malampaya project, which include PNOC-EC, Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Chevron Malampaya LLC.

Under the scheme, Malampaya project contractors can deduct up to 70 percent of "approved costs" from the project's monthly sales revenue before splitting the remainder of the profit with the national government.

PNOC-EC's revenue from the Malampaya project declined by 5 percent to P4.8 billion last year from P5 billion in 2005.

Earnings from its coal mining and trading activities also dropped by 21 percent to P1.2 billion in 2006 from P1.5 billion the year before.

The revenue decline was attributed to a drop in sales volume, from 601.85 metric tons (MT) in 2005 to 477.70 MT last year. This was partially offset by the increase in the average selling price of coal from P2,139 per MT in 2005 to P2,504 per MT in 2006.

PNOC-EC's energy supply base in Batangas contributed P114 million in revenue, up by 29 percent year-ago level.

The company's operating income reached P4 billion last year, P3.3 billion of which was used to pay loans related to the Malampaya project.

Stocks continue . . .

From page B1

lion shares traded. Gainers outnumbered losers 68 to 49.

The local market joined others in the region, which also marked gains following Wall Street's lead to record highs. But a slump in mainland Chinese shares saw many regional markets lose grip of early peaks.

Chinese stocks slid 8 percent in late trade, extending last week's 4.3 percent fall, as mainland investors continued to fret about the hike in stock-trading tax—the latest move by Chinese authorities to cool a market that had nearly tripled in value in the past year.

"Global fund managers are apparently becoming more cognizant of temporary versus long-term fiscal or monetary measures in regional economies, evidenced by recent recovery in bourses following China's stock market slump mid-week," Grace Cerdenia of online broker 2TradeAsia.Com said in a weekly note.

According to Conrade Bate, Citiseconline.Com president, nothing much has changed "in terms of the upbeat prospects."

"However, the market looks overbought and a correction is near," he added.

"The market has gone up by more than 100 points," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc. "This opens us up for correction in the near term."

Analysts said foreign funds picked out blue chips yesterday. They also said that the market would test the 3,600 to 3,650 levels this week.

"Within the Philippine setting, the stories to look forward to include privatization blocks," Cerdenia said.

Government is selling its stakes in Manila Electric Co., San Miguel Corp., Philippine National Bank and Philippine National Oil Co., Cerdenia said.

With a report from Reuters

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Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

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OBITUARIES

The Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit

Announce the death of

SISTER TARCILDA, S.,Sp.S.
(WILHELMINE GURRIS)

on June 3, 2007 at the age of 93
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered today, Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, #8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at the Christ the King Cemetery, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

More Classifieds

Supreme Court of the Philippines Page A8
Department of Labor-NCR Page A23
Municipality of Victoria Page A23
Municipality of Upi, Shariff Kabunsuan Page A23

DANIEL 'DANNY' CIRIA CRUZ VILLENA
of Tanay, Rizal

Died on June 2, 2007

He is survived by his wife, **Natividad "Naty" Mandin Villena**, son, **Nathaniel "Knell"**, daughter-in-law, **Monina Arcelo**, grandchildren, **Marinelle Therese, Marielle Angeli** and **Joshua Mari**.

His body lies in state at Royal Room, St. Peter Chapels, 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be tomorrow, June 6, 2007 at South Cemetery, Makati City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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Espiridion "Jun" D. Dillomes, Jr.
Retiree of Biomedis
United Laboratories, Inc.

peacefully joined his Creator on May 29, 2007 at the age of 63.

His body lies in state at Arlington, Raymundo Ave., Pasig City. Interment today, June 5 at Loyola Memorial, Marikina.

OBITUARIES

Luz Puyat Martel

83rd Birth Anniversary on June 05, 2007

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches:

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 PM
NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUIA PARISH, Ermita, Manila	6:00 PM
OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH, F.B. Harrison, Pasay City	6:00 AM, 6:30 AM, 7:00 AM, 6:00 PM
MALATE CHURCH, M.H. Del Pilar, Malate, Manila	6:00 PM
ASSUMPTION PARISH, Leveriza, Manila	6:00 AM, 6:15 PM
HARRISON PLAZA CHAPEL, Malate, Manila	12:00 NOON, 5:30 PM
STA. CRUZ PARISH, Sta. Cruz, Manila	6:15 PM
OUR LADY OF EDSA SHRINE, Ortigas Ave., Quezon City	7:00 PM
MINOR BASILICA OF THE BLACK NAZARENE, Quiapo, Manila	7:00 AM
SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH, Intramuros, Manila	6:30 AM
ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH, Bel-Air, Makati City	6:30 AM
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI PARISH, Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:15 AM, 7:00 AM, 12:15 NOON, 6:00 PM
MANILA CATHEDRAL, Intramuros, Manila	7:30 AM, 12:10 NOON
ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH, Makati City	6:30 AM, 7:30 AM, 12:15 NOON, 6:00 PM
BACLARAN REDEMPTORIST CHURCH, Baclaran, Parañaque	6:45 AM
SAN VICENTE DE PAUL, San Marcelino, Manila	5:10 PM

BUSINESS

WB lauds RP for economic growth in Q1

But warns reforms needed to ensure sustainability

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK HAS LAUDED THE Philippines for posting a "better-than-expected" economic performance in the first quarter.

The multilateral institution, however, warned that the growth would not be sustainable unless more reforms in the fiscal and regulatory sectors are implemented.

"The issue now is how to make that growth sustainable and to translate that into revenues," Joachim von Amsberg, World Bank's country director for the Philippines, said yesterday in a briefing.

Amsberg noted that while substantial gains in the fiscal sector had already been achieved following the marked reduction of the budget deficit last year, tax collection in the first quarter was not so encouraging.

The deficit fell to P64.8 billion last year from the previous year's P146.8 billion.

The government aims to further trim the deficit to P63 billion this year, but had so far fallen short of its tax collection goal in the first quarter.

Amsberg's views were underscored in the World Bank study entitled "Philippines: Invigorating Growth, Enhancing Its Impact," which noted the need to translate improved macroeconomic fundamentals into sustainable growth.

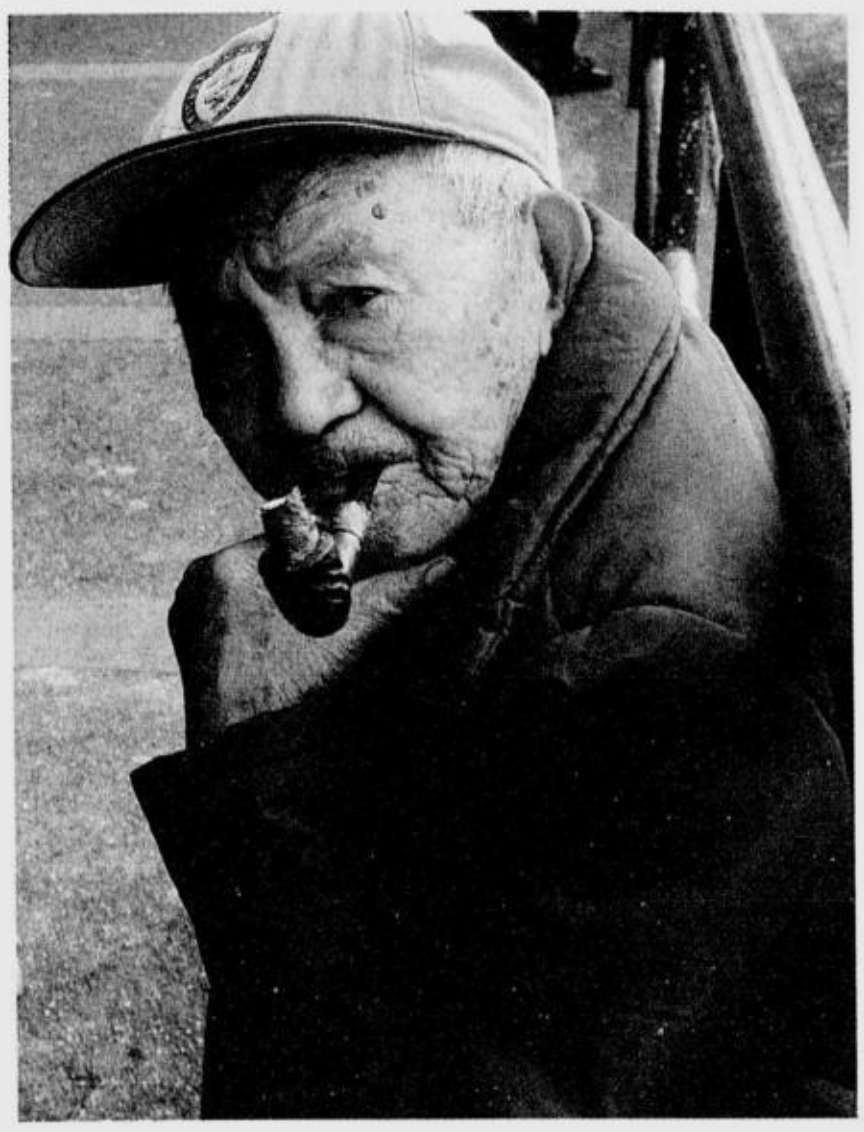
"The financial market turnaround (referring to record-high rise in stock market prices) has to translate into higher overall investment, which has been stagnant in real terms and has declined as a share of GDP (gross domestic product) to below 15 percent," the study said.

"This is of concern, since higher economic growth is needed to generate more jobs and reduce poverty more rapidly, and it is difficult to see how sufficiently robust growth can be sustained at present levels of investment," the report added.

Economists said the Philippines' investment-to-GDP should be at least 25 percent to be at par with other neighboring countries and to ensure sustainability of growth.

The World Bank pointed out four areas that the government has to improve on for the Philippines to maintain robust growth.

- Fiscal policy must continue to lower the public debt-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio, which, although significantly reduced since its peak in 2003, remains high.
- Increasing public investment, such as by improving capacity of government agencies to execute their budget and curb corruption
- Improving the investment climate by having competitive power rates, liberalizing the maritime and aviation sectors, and reducing protection of domestically produced agricultural commodities.
- Investment in social services so that the poor may feel the gains of higher economic growth.



TOBACCO LOBBY'S POSTER BOY
An aged Cordilleran puffs on an old pipe at Baguio City's Malcolm Square while health officials and government employees celebrated the national "No-tobacco" day last week. Tobacco among indigenous Filipinos has some religious significance because priests use smoke in rituals to drive away evil spirits. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

BPO firms looking for Spanish speakers

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT'S CAMpaign to produce English-speaking workers for the business outsourcing industry may soon become an outdated goal because the job market is now looking for more Spanish speakers, a school owner here said.

Clients from Spanish-speaking countries have started checking out the Philippines as a possible site for BPO services because of the country's historical Spanish links, and because its schools once required college students to take Spanish courses, said Maria Bryce Fabro, president of the Center for Technical Excellence Integrated School Inc. (CTEISI).

Fabro said the Spanish-speaking countries account for as much as 37 percent of the potential global outsourcing market.

Most businesses that require the services of call centers in the country have been concentrated in production and manufacturing, but she said the demand for call centers that help manufacturers sell their products overseas was on the rise.

Many countries that buy these products are Spanish-speaking countries in America and Europe.

However, the Commission on Higher Education dropped Spanish from its mandatory courses more than 10 years ago, and many universities had elected to make the language course an elective.

Fabro, thus, set up Language Zone Inc. here to offer crash courses in Spanish, realizing that most business outsourcing enterprises were looking for workers fluent in Spanish.

An outsourcing firm in Pampanga even advertises its Spanish-speaking workforce as one of its strengths when it offers its services overseas, she said.

Language Zone sells its services with the slogan "The World Speaks English" but also offers Nippongo to overseas workers who find new opportunities in Japan, she said.

She said English may have helped break down borders in trade but it has also opened the doors for other cultures to trade with the Philippines.

Xstrata claims 'responsible mining' work at Tampakan

XSTRATA COPPER HAS EXPRESSED confidence that its Tampakan Project will demonstrate how it is possible to mine responsibly in the Philippines, given the company's global expertise and Sagittarius Mines Inc.'s local experience.

In a statement, Xstrata chief executive Charlie Sartain said the Tampakan Project had a solid track record in community development and environmental protection.

Tampakan is touted to be one of the largest untapped copper mineral resources in Southeast Asia.

Xstrata assumed the management of the project from Indophil Resources through Sagittarius.

It has committed to advance the pre-feasibility and feasibility studies of the Tampakan copper-gold project in Mindanao, after it acquired 62.5 percent of the controlling interest in the project last December.

Although the project is in the pre-feasibility stage, Sagittarius has already been providing annual community development assistance to the project's host communities in South Cotabato.

Funds have been used to implement various education, community health, livelihood, small infrastructure and capability-building programs.

For instance, while the B'laan in Tampakan used to be the most marginalized indigenous group in the region, all of the B'laan children are now going to school.

These children would be supported until they complete their college education.

Through Sagittarius' education assistance program, more than 8,000 scholars have so far been sent to school.

The older population can also benefit through Sagittarius' adult literacy program.

Roughly P9 million is spent yearly for these programs, as well as for schoolhouse rehabilitation and teachers' salaries.

Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes earlier cited the Tampakan Project for being on track toward meeting the three essential objectives in any major minerals development project—ensuring economic development, establishing social equity and protecting the environment.

Last year, Sagittarius was granted the Presidential Mining Industry Environmental Award for its environmental stewardship. *Amy R. Remo*

DA urges farmers to sell directly to consumers

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRIculture recently launched its second food caravan to showcase the government's efforts to make the farm sector more profitable and food prices more affordable.

"The food caravan is a way of demonstrating to our farmers and fisherfolk how they can directly link with DA *bagsakan* (drop off) centers in Metro Manila, where they can sell their produce without having to pass through unnecessary trading layers and thus, gain more profits," Yap said.

The Commonwealth Market, the last stop of the food caravan, is one of the country's *bagsakan* centers. Other *bagsakan* centers include major markets in Pasig, Marikina and Muntinlupa.

"Through this event, small agricultural stakeholders learn that they can earn and sell more and at the same time, provide consumers with fresh, high-quality foodstuff at affordable prices," Yap said.

The caravan kicked off with a harvest festival in the lettuce and broccoli farms of La Trinidad Valley in Benguet. About 60 trucks, all of which were to deliver their produce to Manila, joined the caravan.

The Benguet Farmers Federation Inc., Benguet Farmers Multipurpose Coop, Mt. Province Farmers Federation Inc., Ifugao Farmers Federation Inc. and the Baguio-Benguet Traders and Truckers Association also joined the convoy.

Other groups that joined the caravan included farm stakeholders represented by the Bantay Samahang Nayon Multipurpose Cooperative, Dagupan Bangus Producers, La Trading and Mango Growers and Multiline Food Processing Plant.

Central Luzon participants included *tilapia* producers of Pampanga; the San Luis Municipal Fishpond Owners Cooperative, Katipunan ng Samahang Magsisibuyas sa Nueva Ecija (Kasamne), Talavera Vegetable Growers, San Ildefonso Growers Association and the vegetable growers from Laur, Nueva Ecija.

Yap said improving the farmers' market access was part of the DA's five-point program, which includes spending for infrastructure; technology and extension services; postharvest and storage facilities; expansion of access to rural credit; and opening up of new markets here and abroad for local produce. *Amy R. Remo*

Chinese firm eyes coco plant

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—A CHINESE investor has expressed interest in putting up an activated carbon processing plant in the country.

Edilberto Nierva, regional manager for Eastern Visayas of the Philippine Coconut Authority, revealed that Guangxi Orient Daitonz Imp & Exp Co., Ltd. would like to set up the carbon plant in the Philippines and export the production to the United States, Europe, Japan and China.

Nierva said Guangxi would need coconut husks and coconut coir and residue, which are by-products of coconut oil millers and coconut meat processors, as feedstock for its operation.

Nierva hoped that the Chinese company would put up its business in Eastern Visayas where several coconut processing plants, including a new one owned by Chinese businessmen, are located.

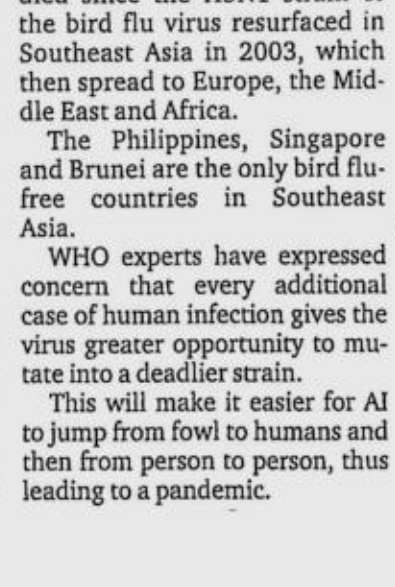
Nierva said that many groups were interested in putting up coconut processing plants in Eastern Visayas, being the second largest coconut-producing region in the country.

The region has 649,030 ha of coconut land planted to about 72,000 trees, of which over 58,000 are fruit-bearing. About 368,500 farmers in the region depend on the coconut industry.

RP-GUANGXI DEAL
Trade and Industry Secretary Peter B. Favila (left) speaks with Liu Qibao (right), secretary of the Guangxi committee and director-general of a committee of Guangxi People's Congress. The Chinese delegation is in the country to promote cooperation between Guangxi and the Philippines through tourism.

DA lifts import ban on Japan poultry

By Amy R. Remo



YAP

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRIculture has lifted the temporary ban on all bird and poultry imports from Japan.

The move came after the Bureau of Animal Industry ruled that the contamination risk of the dreaded avian influenza from poultry from Japan was "negligible."

In a recent memorandum, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said the lifting of the ban was based on a final report submitted by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to the Office International des Epizooties or Animal Health Organization.

The report showed that there was no evidence of the bird flu virus in the the past 90 days.

The lifting of the ban covers domestic and wild birds and their products, including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen, according to the DA memorandum.

"All import transactions of [these] products shall be in accordance with the existing rules and regulations of the DA, BAI and the National Meat Inspection Service," Yap added in his directive.

Yap ordered a temporary ban on all live bird and poultry imports from Japan last January after Tokyo informed the OIE about the presence of a highly pathogenic strain of the AI virus in Japan.

On Nov. 27 last year, Yap also issued a similar ban on all live bird and poultry imports from Korea after the bird flu virus was detected in that country.

As of May 16, the World Health Organization reported that 185 of the 306 people infected with the AI virus have died since the H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus resurfaced in Southeast Asia in 2003, which then spread to Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

The Philippines, Singapore and Brunei are the only bird flu-free countries in Southeast Asia.

WHO experts have expressed concern that every additional case of human infection gives the virus greater opportunity to mutate into a deadlier strain.

This will make it easier for AI to jump from fowl to humans and then from person to person, thus leading to a pandemic.

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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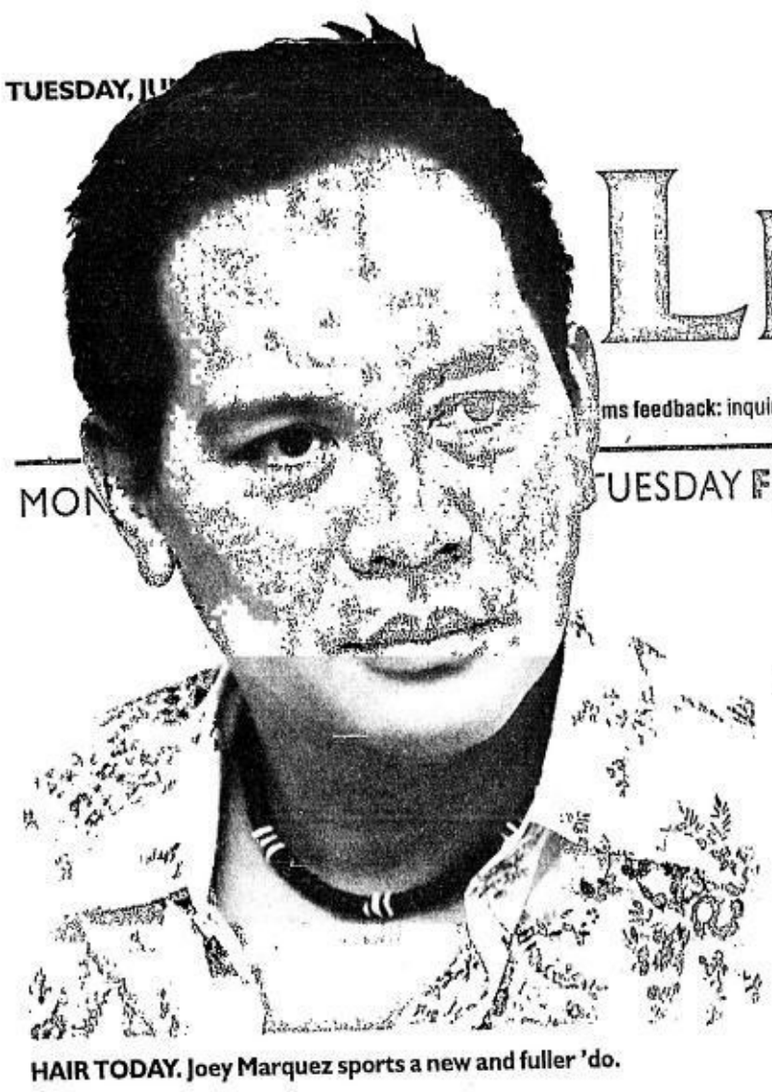
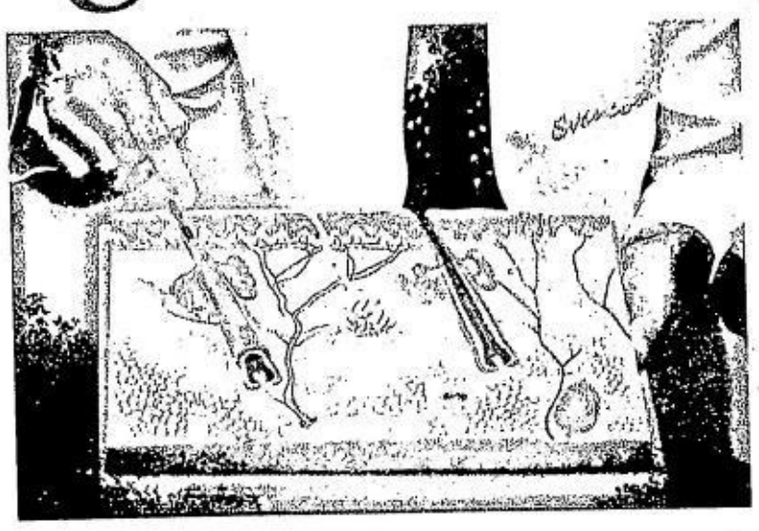


HAIR TODAY. Joey Marquez sports a new and fuller 'do.

Joey Marquez's hair-raising story

'You tend to look older with less hair... Nobody wants to look old, especially if you're in show biz'



ONE of Svenson's resident trichologists explains the process behind the hair center's signature treatment.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

THE TWISTS AND TURNS IN Joey Marquez's private as well as public life may be far from over.

But the latest development in his life, unlike the scandal he was once embroiled in with you-know-who, seems destined for a happy ending.

Thanks to Svenson International, Marquez, 46, has found an effective—and hopefully lasting—solution to his thinning hair, which began in his late 30s.

"In my case, it was more stress-related than hereditary," he said. "During the time I was in public office, I'd wake up and find countless strands of hair on my pillow. I think the problems of running a city took its toll not on my health, but on my hair."

Although the hair loss was gradual, the condition soon became noticeable that friends started calling him "monsignor" because of his thinning crown and temporal areas.

Less confident

Marquez felt offended, but he tried to shrug it off at first. There was no denying the fact, however, that the condition lessened his confidence and self-esteem.

"You tend to look older with less hair," he said. "Nobody wants to look old, especially if you're in show biz. I intend to be classic, not old."

After undergoing a series of topical treatments at the hair clinic's Makati and Alabang branches since September, the comedian and former mayor of Parañaque has regained not only his full head of hair, but also his confidence.

"Despite my busy schedule, I made it a point to go to Svenson's at least once or twice a week," he said. "The time I spent was worth it. I started noticing improvements as early as the second month."

During out-of-town shoots, Marquez brought the cocktail of hair solutions with him and religiously applied them himself on his scalp. The most potent potion in the anti-bald regimen, which he now knows by heart, is called thrico-DHT inhibitor.

The substance stimulates hair growth by inhibiting the male hormone testosterone from accumulating around the hair bulb and forming dihydrotestosterone or DHT, a by-product of certain enzymes and the main culprit in premature balding.

A friend pointed Marquez in the direction of Svenson after he had tried a number of treatments, including "medicated" shampoos and injections in the United States. Marquez was at first skeptical.

"None of them really worked for me," he said. "It was either I go bald all the way or wear a wig. I'd rather die than wear one. I thought Svenson also did toupees and transplants."

All natural

When he learned that Svenson was different and "all natural," he was finally convinced to give it a try. For starters, he was told the topical treatments were made from a mixture of potent and natural herbs, and not from chemicals.

Teresa Cruz, Svenson Makati's resident trichologist (an expert on various hair and scalp disorders), first addressed Marquez's problem by "correcting the scalp environment." This involves, among others, cleaning the scalp and arresting hair loss.

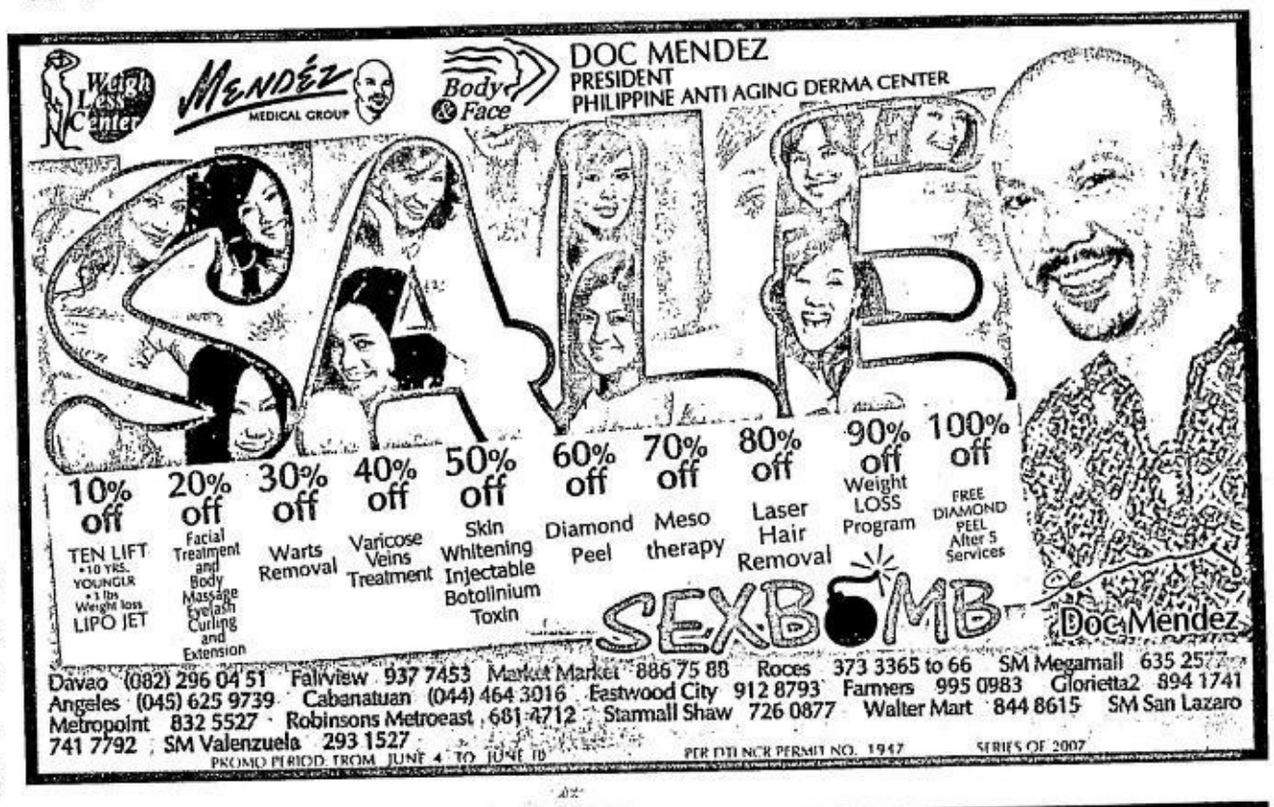
"DHT is responsible for hastening the atrophy (degeneration) of hair follicles," she said. "That's why it's important to begin treatment at the first signs of hair loss."

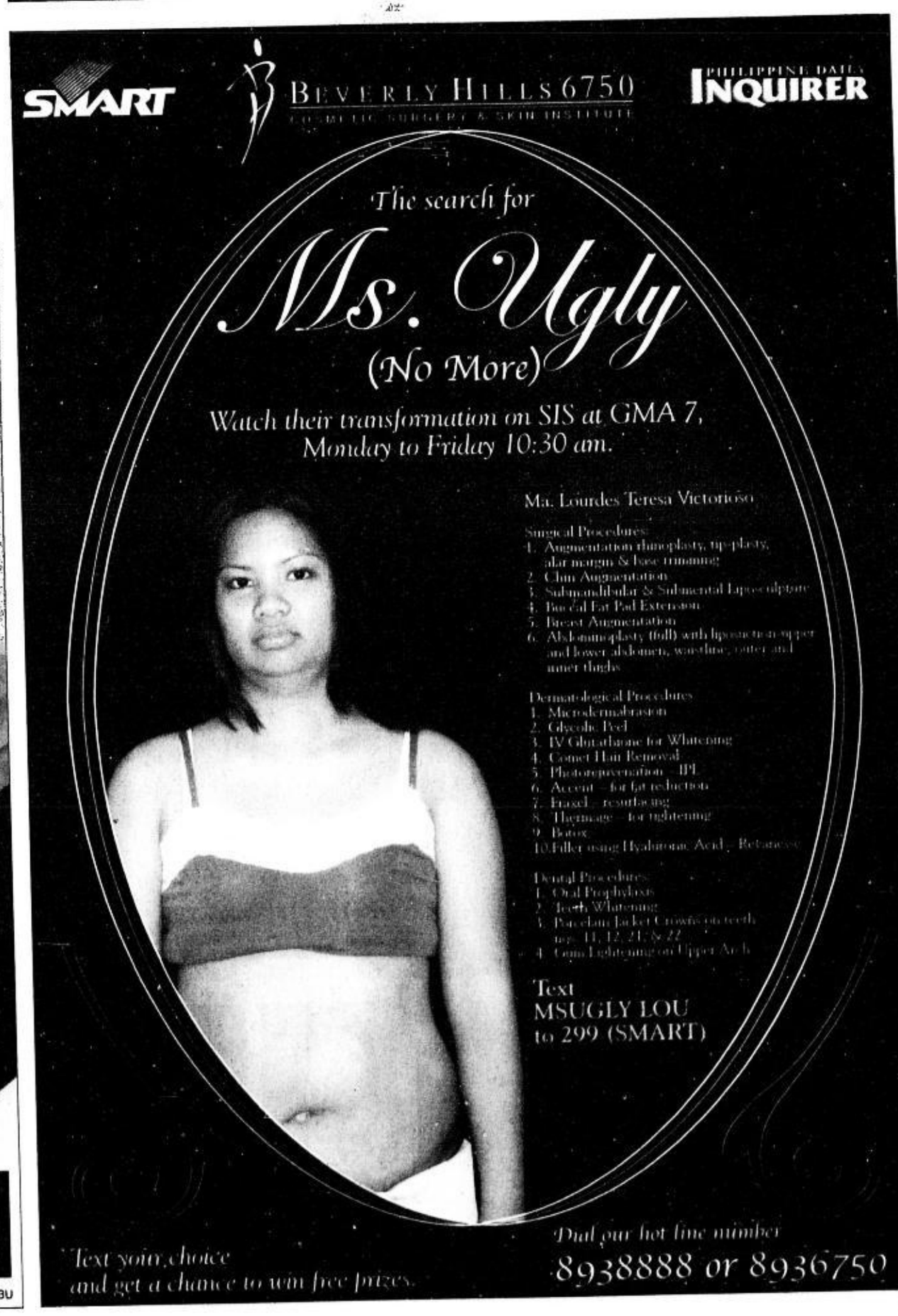
After six sessions, Cruz started to introduce Marquez's scalp to thrico-DHT inhibitor. Whatever hair Marquez had at this stage of the treatment would be his to keep for life, she assured him.

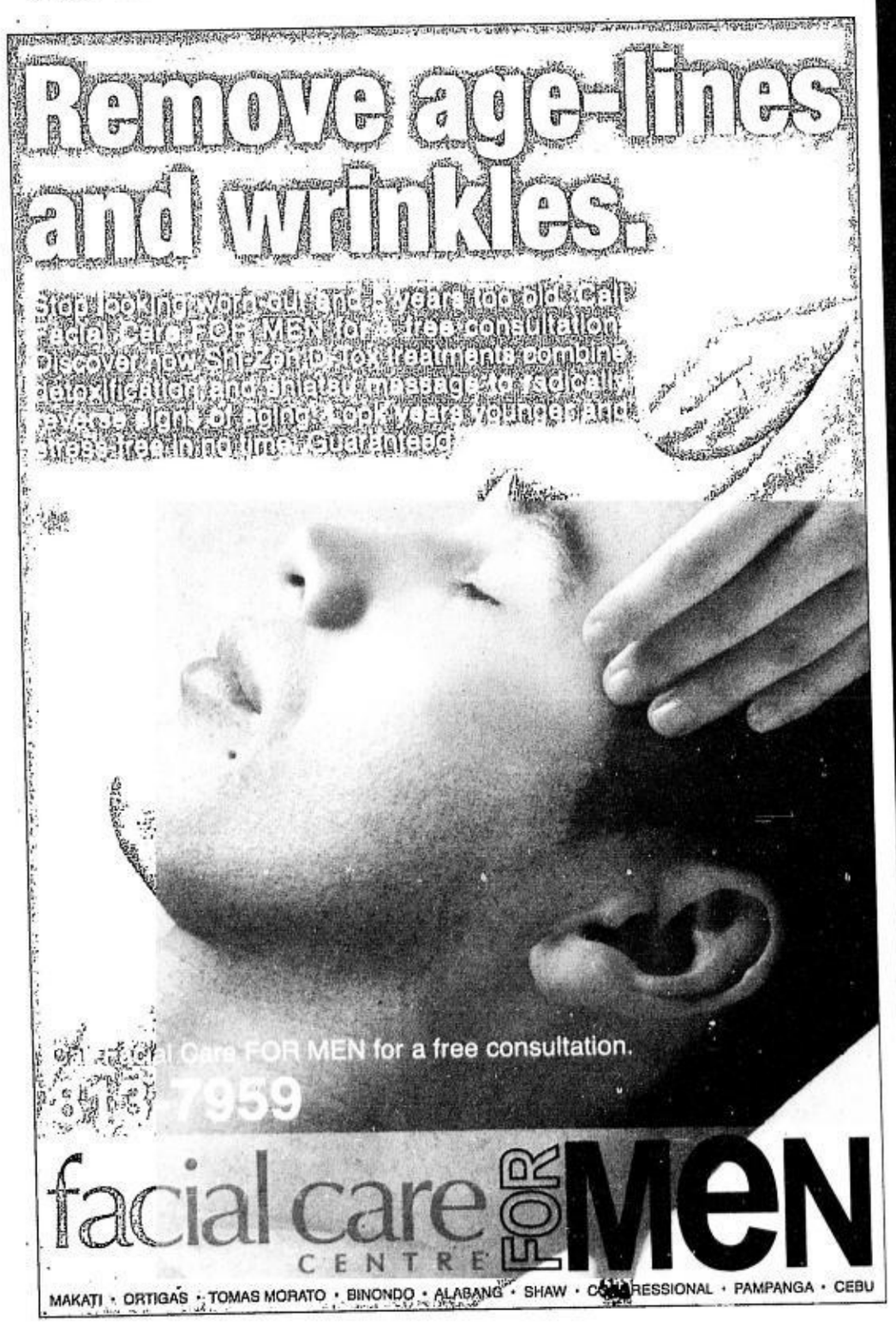
The total price tag depends on the extent of treatment. Marquez is philosophical and pragmatic about it: "You can earn back the money you spend [at Svenson], but once your hair is completely gone you can never grow it back no matter how much money you have."

To this day, friends, even strangers, still cannot believe their eyes when they see Marquez with his lush new hair. They think he is wearing a wig. Some are even brazen enough to tug at sections of his hair.

Marquez is more amused than annoyed. If that is one downside to regaining his crowning glory, this man isn't complaining.







BEAUTIFUL couple: Veronica Scott and her love, Carlos Concepcion

COZYING up. Lesly Dimson and Steven Lovina

PBB's Say Alonzo and Ria Reyes

HEAD turners Dotty Amante and Amanda Griffin

ROBBY Reyes and Nikki Martinez

JESSICA Guevarra and Miguel Blardony

MARTHA Prieto Lovina and JM Rodriguez

Apeach of paradise

SUPER host JR Isaac with Lifestyle Asia's Juana Manahan

THE BY-INVITATION-ONLY LAUNCH OF Absolut Apeach made Manille's party scene sizzle even more during the hot, dry season.

The event, dubbed "Absolut Surrender" and with the Bali Hai theme, brought everyone to a Pacific paradise. Fort Bonifacio's the Island was transformed into a tropical paradise.

We were escorted in under a giant multi-tiered Indonesian umbrella, an honor traditionally accorded royalty, and greeted by awesome sights and sounds, *palanggas*.

The evening's popular host **JR Isaac** and tons of gorgeous models were dressed in the majestic hues of the sunset. The mysterious Sho-ji pathway opened to a fantastic choir singing '70s hit songs, as models took off their flowing caftans to reveal **Eddie Baddeo**'s fabulous summer collection.

But the biggest eye-catcher was the awesome giant chandelier made of Absolut Apeach bottles hanging from 40 feet high and giving a shower of a thousand sparks.

The majestic unveiling, *palanggas*, got the bash on the roll and the invitees did heavy partying and dancing till they dropped literally, as I noticed, on the dance floor, to the fab tunes of DJs **Angelo Villanueva** and **Steven Lovina**.

I found out I'm a vodka boozer, *palanggas*. Absolut Apeach, the latest addition to the Absolut *famille* of flavored vodkas, has this full-bodied peach taste but without the heavy sugar of peach liqueur. This is definitely a refreshing drink for hot days and nights whether you take it on the rocks or a multitude of other ways.

Have a sip. You'll love it, dahlings.

ANNIKA Markovic, ambassador of Sweden to the Philippines, and Drasko Markovic

DELICIOUS-looking Cacay Moras hugs her vodka.

MOVIE star Rustom Padilla with Meynard Marcellano and Joshua Formentera

MOI, Chelo Formoso, Nigel Barker and Anton San Diego

SOFIA Zobel Elizalde with Anna Marie Saguil and Sigalit Djemal

VICKY Zubiri and photographer Marcus Brooks

Picture-perfect

He came, we saw, and he conquered. Tons of women had a crush on him and photographers and men admired him, dahlings.

The weather was scorching but no one seemed to mind the heat emanating from tall, talented and dashing **Nigel Barker**, celebrity photographer and judge in the hit reality television show "America's Next Top Model" (ANTM).

Nigel was in town for Ayala's 9th Merchant Rewards Forum and a series of fun events at the Greenbelt 3 Park and Alabang's Activity Center, where he gave advice to style-savvy merchants and loads of spectators interested in fashion, modeling, and photography, natch *palanggas*.

"It's just another way we give back to our patrons—something sure to create another memorable experience only here at Ayala Malls," says **Rowena Tomeldan**, Ayala Malls vice president and deputy group head.

It was standing room only at the Greenbelt 3 park and ATC Activity Center as the gorgeous, immaculately dressed photographer lent his professional eye in analyzing photos of models from the Professional Models Association of the Philippines.

When asked how it felt to be a celebrity photographer, Nigel looked at the ladies around him and smiled, "I'm always surrounded by beauty. It's a hot job."

A few tips from the expert, *palanggas*:

What does it take to become a good model? "Don't model too much. Act as natural as possible, but professionally."

How should full-figured women pose for the camera? "Don't hide your shape. Be yourself, and have the right attitude."

Advice for aspiring photographers: "It's not about the fancy camera. It's about knowing the right time to hit the shutter."

Nigel was asked, "What has been your most glamorous shoot to date?"

His answer, "I think glamour is only about looking at it from the outside. I work with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and grant wishes to terminally ill women who want to feel like a model for a day. I would say that this is my most glamorous experience, and my most rewarding, working with these strong, real women." Amen, sir!

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

BUSINESS magnates Francisco Eizmendi and Jorge San Agustin

VIC Quisumbing of Grepalife

GLORIA Diaz and her favorite banker, Mike de Jesus

KPMG's vice chair and COO Noel Bonoan with Maribel Obidos, Cesar Virata, Bert Manabat, and Helen Dee, chair of the Yuchengco Group

Talking business

It was a real heavy-weight affair. *Moi* felt as light as a feather surrounded by the kings of the asphalt jungle, *palanggas*, when KPMG Philippines, one of the awesome Big 4 accountancy firms in the world, no less, gave a chic cocktail party for the hottest directors and officers of the renowned Yuchengco group.

Among the VIPs were **Helen Dee**, chair of the Yuchengco Group; brilliant **Yvonne Yuchengco**, president of Malayan Insurance Company; **Lorenzo Tan**, CEO and president of RCBC; plus loads of directors of various Yuchengco companies, including former Prime Minister **Cesar Virata**, **Francisco Eizmendi**, and **Robert de Ocampo**.

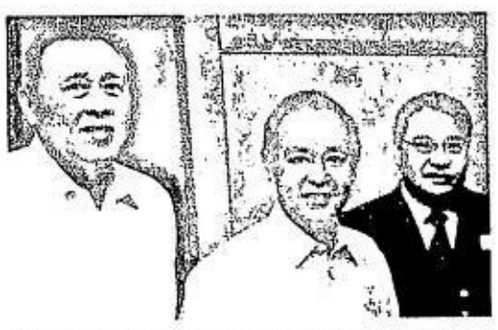
The new management team of KPMG Philippines—chair **Roberto Manabat**, vice chair and COO **Noel Bonoan**, vice chair for audit services **Jorge San Agustin** and CFO **Pachot Castañeda**—hosted the happening at the chi-chi exclusive Tower Club, *palanggas*.

After listening to all the business talk, *moi* couldn't wait to get to my next happening at the up-scale Bar & Resto Nuvo for the Moët & Chandon-sponsored night. Ahh, there's nothing like sitting back listening to great music and a glass of it, the cold-cold bubbly Moët & Chandon, *palanggas*.

'Thank you' lunch

Moi wasn't there 'cause of another appointment, but I was told the Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines (STB-P) hosted a big blast again, *palanggas*. STB-P had its signature annual media appreciation functions, the board's unique way of thanking media partners for their continued support.

STB-P gathered media pals for an "oinkin'" good time at the chi-chi Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental. A grand and truly scrumptious to-die-for *lauriat* lunch was served.


BUSINESS magnates Perry Uy, Bobby de Ocampo and Lorenzo Tan

CHICKIE Locsin with Bankard's Oscar Biazon and Yvonne Yuchengco

Jetting into town was STB's regional director for Asean Islands **Chooe Yee Chong** who acknowledged "the invaluable support of friends and colleagues."

Giving an overview of the success that STB-P and its partners had achieved was tall, dashing wonder man area director **Rocson Chang**. He announced that the Philippines was on the Top 10 of global contributors of tourist arrivals to Singapore with some 385,960 Filipinos visiting in 2006.

The best part came when a grand raffle was held. Eight lucky guests won round-trip tickets to Singapore with, take note, free hotel accommodations.

Now, don't you think the Singapore Tourism Board is as unique and utterly refreshing as the country it represents, *palanggas*?

STB-P's Marianne Katigbak (center) with Aiza Gumo and Bheng Loretizo

STB's Chooe Yee Chong

AYALA Malls' Cathy Bengzon, AC Ocampo, CJ Jesena, Mei Mei Buazon, and Rowena Tomeldan; Nigel Barker; Wilson Tieng; and Ayala Malls' Javi Hernandez and Myrna Fernandez

MODELS Bianca Valerio, Isabel Roces, and Rissa Samson

COMEDIENNE Marissa Sanchez

Margaux Salcedo and Ann Kuy

STB-P's Rocson Chang (3rd from left), Liza Gonzales (4th from left) and Jay Malabuyoc (far right) with Kitchie Diaz, Docker Cavestany, Niza Forschler, and Nancy Harel

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

Can dreams show us future events?

NEWS OF THE ARREST OF FOUR suspects in the killing of a senior police officer in the May 26 issue of Philippine Daily Inquirer caught my interest and attention.

The victim's wife was quoted as saying their 12-year-old daughter dreamt of the tragedy the day it happened:

"In the dream, the Bocalbos family was inside the Nissan Urvan Escapade vehicle waiting for Maria Cristina to return from a fast food restaurant. Suddenly, someone opened the front passenger seat and attacked the police officer. Christie looked in the vehicle's side mirror and saw her father pleading for help."

The news item added that the victim's wife wanted to tell her husband about their daughter's dream and to warn him but she ignored the impulse thinking it was just a dream.

Questions

There are several questions that come to mind regarding this story. First, what are dreams, and why do they occur? Second, how can dreams tell us what is going to happen beforehand? And third, can the victim have been saved if the wife warned him?

We spend one-third of our lives sleeping. And dreaming is one of the main activities during sleep. A dream has been defined as "the language of the subconscious mind."

Our subconscious is a vast storehouse of information, not only of past, but also of present and future events.

There are many reasons why we dream. Sometimes, a dream is merely a carryover of waking activities and concerns. Other times, it conveys an important message about our health, relationship, job or other personal matter. But there are times when dreams warn us of future events, like what happened in the above case.

How is it possible for a dream to foretell a future event? Of course not all dreams are of this nature. But, according to the beliefs of Australian aborigines, "before an event actually happens in our waking state, we first dream of it."

That's why they pay close attention to their dreams and do not ignore them, unlike us so-called more "civilized" ones. I think we have much to learn from the aborigines.

The third question is the most difficult to answer: Could Bocalbo's death have been prevented if his wife told him of his daughter's dream?

Of course, if his wife called him and he heeded the warning, then the killing would not have taken place that day. But would it not happen at all?

Sometimes a foreseen or predicted event can be prevented and at other times cannot.

Unpreventable

Let me cite two examples, one local, the other foreign.

During the time of President Ferdinand E. Marcos, a psychic reportedly warned him that the plane carrying his son Bongbong would crash. The plane had already taken off. The President asked the plane to return and his son got off.

The plane resumed its journey. As we know, that plane did crash, killing almost everybody on board, including Bongbong's best friend, the son of Judge Serafin Camilon (By the way, in a Playboy Magazine interview, Marcos said he had an intuitive insight the plane would crash and not because he was warned. I don't know whom to believe, the psychic who told me about it or Marcos. Both are dead now).

Question: "Why didn't Marcos ground that plane if he knew it would crash?" He couldn't. If he did, he would have been the laughing stock of the world. He couldn't prove it would crash, until it actually did. So he just asked his son to get off.

In the second case, Edgar Cayce, the late American psychic and prophet, was waiting for an elevator. When the doors opened, he saw four or five persons inside. He stepped back to indicate he was not getting in. The elevator doors closed and shortly afterwards the elevator crashed killing all passengers.

Question: "How did Edgar Cayce know that the elevator would crash?" He said when the elevator doors opened, he saw the people inside had no aura anymore (the aura is the life force that every living being has). For all practical purposes, therefore, those people were already dead.

Another question: "Why didn't Cayce ask the people to get out?" Answer: Who would believe him? Those people were as good as dead and there was nothing he could do about it.

Same thing with the plane crash. The people in the plane were already doomed. Marcos could not have prevented it.

Should we therefore just let things be and do nothing when we dream or see something bad is about to happen? No, we should always try to warn people of impending danger or accident when we foresee one, because there are times when foreseen events can be prevented.

This is when their completion depends on the will of man and is not yet completed on the astral or spiritual plane.

Note: For inquiries on books, paranormal services and seminars on Inner Mind Development, ESP and Intuition Development, and Soulmates, Karma & Reincarnation conducted by this writer, please call 8107245, 8926806; fax 8159890; e-mail innerawareness_2005@yahoo.com.ph.

Your Doctor Knows Best

Antonio C. Sison, MD, FPPA, FPSO

Question:
I noticed that I have mood swings. Do I have Bipolar disorder?

Doctor Says...

Our moods change due to emotional reactions to several factors such as good or bad news. The boundary in which mood changes may go beyond what is considered normal and acceptable may not always be noticed by the individual.

Family members and friends would describe the person to be "moody" or have an "artistic" temperament. However the basic observation that distinguishes this disorder is that the up and down moods are considered to be extreme or beyond what is expected.

For example, the person would be so depressed over a minor argument. And this degree of the depression impacts negatively on the person's functioning in the work and/or social arena. Often the person recognizes the depression but does not see the severity. The person is strongly suspected to be clinically depressed.

Furthermore, if the person had previous episodes of being in a "high" mood characterized by high energy levels, rapid thoughts, bursts of creativity and impulsiveness such as excessive shopping sprees, this now changes the clinical picture from clinical depression to bipolar depression.

The basic evaluation of persons with any form of depression includes a basic battery of laboratory examinations which test for cardiac, renal and liver functions and includes thyroid function tests. A 2-D echocardiography is requested if there are symptoms of anxiety which some patients also report having. These examinations are part of the psychiatric evaluation of the patient who is depressed.

Early intervention with medications combined with good family support and therapeutic alliance with the psychiatrist and medical staff, the patient's mood can be controlled to allow him/her to again work and enjoy the social interaction.

One of the hindrances with getting prompt and sustained treatment is the stigma attached to mental illness. Stigma begins at home. Let us be all aware that we should address mental health concerns without having feelings of shame. For proper guidance, evaluation and management, you can consult a doctor who has experience in treating this illness.

Dr. Sison is a psychiatrist and psychooncologist. He is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines, College of Medicine. He is a consultant at the St. Luke's Medical Center, Medical City, Capitol Medical Center and Manila Doctors Hospital. He holds clinic at the St Luke's Medical Center

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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Light donuts for 'light' coffee

GREAT NEWS FOR HEALTH-conscious but sweet lovers. You can now have your donuts minus the guilt.

The new donut from Go Nuts is light and sweetened with the low-calorie Equal.

Have your Go Nuts Lite Donuts with coffee sweetened with Equal, too. Go Nuts Donuts has a wide selection of coffee, brewed or flavored.

Equal and Go Nuts are giving discounts on Go Nuts Lite Donuts. Every purchase of Equal sachet 50's entitles you to a 10-percent discount on Go Nuts Lite Donuts box of 6's.

Purchase of Equal sachet 100's gets you a 15-percent discount on Go Nuts Lite Donuts box of 6's. Just present your Equal 50's or 100's sachet pack with the Go Nuts discount sticker at any Go Nuts Donuts branch. Offer is good until Sept. 30.

EQUAL and Go Nuts are giving discounts on Go Nuts Lite Donuts.

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• Card slot

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10 Delightful Years IN THE PHILIPPINES

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Open your heart to yourself so it will open to life

IT IS SAID THE PSYCHE IS LIKE A factory. Within its confines, in this case the mind and the heart, it churns out thoughts and feelings, the result of one's internal processing.

Question is how beneficial to your well-being is your personal factory?

Her story

Jennie is a homemaker. At 52, she continues to be a devoted wife and mother. After nearly 29 years of marriage, she appears much older than her real age.

Looking more like a 62-year-old, she often talks about how happily married she is, even if the dark, puffy circles under her eyes belie her statement.

In her private world away from the prying eyes even of her own family, she pops three pills daily—a sleeping pill before bedtime and two mild tranquilizers to keep her calm during the day.

Often unable to sleep, the borderline insomniac busies herself late evenings baking or driving her maids into a frenzy of house cleaning. Her illness? Repressed rage.

Unable to resolve her issues, she has developed hypertension and a heart condition.

His story

Fred is a hard-driving businessman. At 61, he has achieved more than he hoped for. He lives lavishly and parties hard. His only vice, drinking.

At parties he enjoys talking about himself and the many trophies, medals and awards he has received in his lifetime.

But Fred's drinking, which he considers "only social," makes him a borderline alcoholic. He doesn't only drink in the company of people—he drinks even when he is alone, finishing half a bottle of brandy every night.

His health challenge? Stomach ulcers and elevated blood sugar, a sure candidate for cirrhosis of the liver and diabetes. The cause? Inability to forgive.

As within, so is it without

When the heart is in a state of unease, it is considered to be in a level of disease. In the end it becomes disease. So, whatever it is a person feels inside, the effect will manifest on the outside. Thus, the pain, fear or doubt you may be experiencing today will eventually manifest as a disease.

What ails you

Medically accepted as one of the causes of lifestyle diseases is stress. So, if you think along these lines, then the conclusion is clear.

Example: Worry about your financial situation, family condition, etc., then the worrying will settle in your stomach because you cannot "stomach" your situation.

Jenny who could not verbalize her hurts, kept them under her emotional lid. Because the lid is kept tightly shut, she may never express her hurts. It may lead to cancer of the throat one day. Her medicine? To express her hurts to her offender.

Fred's situation is typical of super-achievers who are so hard on themselves that any personal defeat/failure is considered unforgivable. His medicine? To forgive himself. Once he does this, then he can forgive others.

Time to heal

Getting in touch with yourself is the first major stride toward healing. It is called emotional awareness, literally uprooting emotions from our own internal earth (the landscape of the mind and heart). Awareness of one's feelings begins the process of healing.

Happy thoughts exercise

Each time you have a negative thought or feeling in your mind, stop dead on your tracks. Replace it with a happy thought.

Enter Isis

Named after the Egyptian goddess, a highly effective process of cleansing the psyche is born. Called Clairvision, its aims are emotional awareness and inner cleansing.

This approach explores the subconscious in order to release bottled-up old hurts and disappointments. The course is so dramatically effective that seminar graduates look and feel younger. Why? All their emotional baggage is released.

Helma Schipper, ISIS seminar leader connected with Clairvision (Hidden Valley, Australia) developers of the ISIS approach, explained that addressing issues that had long bothered you that once seemed almost impossible to fix, were resolved after a session, never to return again.

This much sought-after facilitator will be in Manila, June 19-24 to conduct ISIS. Call 0920-8519717 or 5700034 after 4 p.m.

The ISIS program has given graduates a sense of internal well-being because it has helped them open their hearts.

How can you begin to open your heart to life if your heart isn't open even to yourself?

Your affirmation

"My heart is open to me and to life."
Love and light!

JACKIE de Vera, brand manager for Nivea Baby; Ida Dizon, Nivea's group brand manager; Maricel and Anthony Pangilinan; and Rica King, Nivea's marketing director

Baby your baby

MOTHERS can give their children healthy skin from the start with new Nivea Baby.

NIVEA BABY IS A COMPLETE RANGE of products especially formulated to cleanse, care and protect baby's sensitive skin.

The product was launched during the Philippine Pediatric Society's (PPS) 44th Annual Convention hosted by celebrity parents Anthony and Maricel Pangilinan.

Dr. Roberta Romero, head of the dermatology department of the Philippine Children's Medical Center, was guest speaker.

The event was also attended by past PPS president Dr. Joel Elises and Nivea executives led by marketing director Rica King, group brand manager Ida Dizon and brand manager Jackie de Vera.

"Beiersdorf's research facilities are among the biggest and most important contributors in skincare science. Our intensive research revealed detailed knowledge on how to support optimally the skin's natural protective function. These skincare discoveries went into the development of Nivea Baby products, which stand for protection and prevention of skin irritations. Nivea promotes healthy skin for children and babies," says Rica King.

Nivea Baby has natural minerals, making it different from other baby care brands. The minerals strengthen baby skin's natural protective function to support the development of healthy skin.

In her speech, Dr. Romero said, prior to bathing, it was vital to allow the infant's core temperature to stabilize first. She recommended the use of mild cleansers like baby soaps and nonionic baby shampoos.

Dr. Romero advised extreme care in choosing products for children and babies.

De Vera said Nivea Baby products were developed in close collaboration with pediatricians and dermatologists. Products had to pass multi-step skin compatibility and efficacy tests assuring mothers their babies' sensitive skin would be gently cared for and effectively protected.

The Nivea Baby three-step skincare program supports development of healthy skin right from the start.

Step 1 is protective cleansing Nivea Baby Head-to-Toe Wash, Cream Bar Soap and shampoos provide extra gentle, soap-free cleansing that protects even sensitive eyes.'

Step 2 is intensive nourishing of baby's skin with Nivea Baby Milk Lotion and Soft Cream.

Step 3 is wetness protection with Nivea Baby Powder that also cools and soothes baby's skin.

Also available is Nivea Baby Caring Oil for baby massages.

DR. ROBERTA Romero, head of the dermatology department of the Philippine Children's Medical Center

Put aging on hold

ELIZABETH ARDEN HAS launched Intervene Pause & Effect, a skincare solution that delays the aging process to maintain the skin's firmness, elasticity and youthful glow.

It is the latest addition to Elizabeth Arden's skincare line that seeks to address women's changing needs as they go through different life stages.

Intervene is for a younger set of women who want to delay the onset of classic aging signs like wrinkles, fine lines and dull-looking skin.

With its unique skincare technology, Intervene preempts skin aging which is accelerated by urban lifestyles that include late nights, stressful jobs and prolonged sun exposure.

Intervene's key ingredient, Biodormin, a patented technology, is a botanical derived from the Tazetta Narcissus bulb. Clinical trials have shown that Biodórmin molecules that slow down the plant's cell growth have the same effect on human skin cells. They slow down skin cell division allowing cells to mature better.

ELIZABETH ARDEN's Intervene Pause & Effect

The Biodormin technology helps skin operate at its optimum level. It gives skin time to replenish its energy reserves and regain its natural strength and protective mechanisms.

Intervene also contains soy complex that supports the skin's natural collagen levels to strengthen and tighten the skin, and Red Clover Extract and other botanicals that give the skin a noticeably firmer boost.

Other properties provide broad spectrum UVAJUVB sun protection and moisturizing ingredients that hydrate, replenish and revitalize the skin. It keeps the skin at its peak condition by delaying aging signs.

The two-step Intervene skincare system consists of a Moisture Cream (P3,750, 50 g), Moisture Lotion (P3,750, 50 ml) and Cleanser Exfoliator Primer (P1,350 at 150 ml). Elizabeth Arden's Intervene Pause & Effect is available at Rustan's Makati, Tower and Alabang; and SM Watson's Makati, Megamall and North Edsa.

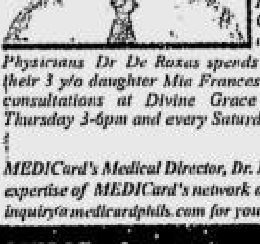
MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve

Take Charge Doc!

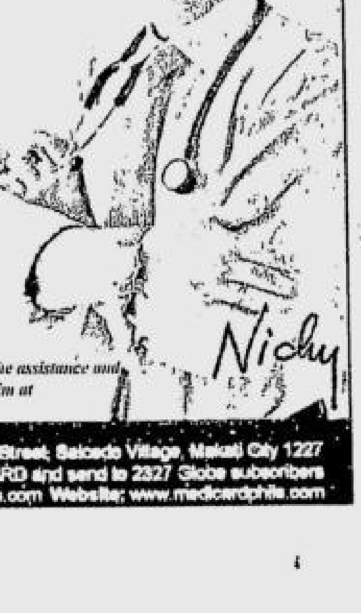
Is secondhand smoke more dangerous than firsthand smoke?

Yes, there is a basis for saying that secondhand smoke is more hazardous than firsthand smoke. Secondhand smoke a.k.a. environmental tobacco smoke consist of sidestream smoke that is generated while the cigarette is smoldering and mainstream smoke that has been exhaled by the smoker. Of the total combustion product from a cigarette, 75% or more enters the air. The constituents of secondhand smoke is qualitatively similar to those of the mainstream smoke, however some toxins such as ammonia, formaldehyde, and nitrosamines are present in much higher concentration in environmental tobacco smoke than the firsthand smoke. There is also a greater magnitude of effect in secondhand smoke because it can affect many persons exposed to it unlike in firsthand smoke which understandably affects only the one who smokes. Exposure to secondhand smoke has been demonstrated to cause sudden infant death syndrome, increase susceptibility to respiratory tract infection, bronchial asthma and middle ear infection. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies secondhand smoke as a class A carcinogen, which means that it has been shown to cause cancer in humans just like with the exposure to firsthand smoke. Tobacco smoke which contains over 4,000 chemicals including 43 known cancer-causing compounds, nicotine and many other toxins, has also been proven to cause leukemia, heart attack, stroke, chronic lung disease, asthma, peptic ulcer, premature skin wrinkling, reduced fertility, and in child bearing smokers, it can cause low birth weight infant, premature birth and even abortion. An appreciation of the hazards of environmental tobacco smoke is important because it provides the basis for advising parents not to smoke when children are in the home, for insisting that child care facilities be smoke-free, and for recommending smoking restrictions in work sites and other public places.

Reference: Murray and Nadel's Textbook of Respiratory Medicine, 4th edition



This week's answer to our feature question is courtesy of Dr. Ronald Umandal de Roxas. Dr. De Roxas, a medicine graduate of FEU-NRMF, finished his residency training at the same institution followed by his subspecialization in Pulmonary and Critical Care at the Philippine Heart Center. He is a fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine Society of Critical care Medicine. He is also a diplomate of Philippine College of Chest Physicians Dr De Roxas spends his free time with his wife Jenifer with their 3 y/o daughter Mia Frances. MEDICard members may avail for his consultations at Divine Grace Medical Center every Tuesday and Thursday 3-6pm and every Saturday 3-6



MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

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Sedentary behavior linked to high blood sugar

NEW YORK—PEOPLE WHO TEND to be sedentary—as indicated by the amount of time they spend watching television—are likely to have high levels of glucose in their blood, even though they may not be diabetic.

Dr. David W. Dunstan, of the International Diabetes Institute, Melbourne, Australia, and colleagues examined the association between television viewing and blood glucose levels, measured after fasting and after a glucose test-drink, in 3,781 men and 4,576 women in Australia. All of the subjects were free of diabetes at the time.

An interviewer assessed the participants' self-reported television viewing time in the previous week.

After accounting for physical activity time and for factors that can affect blood glucose, the investigators found that the more time women spent television viewing, the higher were their blood glucose levels two hours after they took the glucose test-drink.

This was not seen in men, according to the team's report in the medical journal Diabetes Care.

"The findings reinforce the case for a strong focus in diabetes and obesity research on sedentary behaviors, such as television viewing, in addition to the now well-established base of evidence on the importance of increasing physical activity," Dunstan commented to Reuters Health.

"It is possible that other sedentary behaviors may have an additive effect on risk, in that TV viewing may be a marker for a broader pattern of sedentary lifestyle that includes a variety of other forms of sitting time," he suggested.

Source: Diabetes Care, March 2007.

Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Beach indies moved

By Marinel R. Cruz

ENTHUSIASTS WHO waited, in vain, for the first beachfront digital film festival on the resort island of Boracay last month will have to return to the famous summer spot in December.

"The fest had to be rescheduled for the yearend to give organizers and sponsors enough time to prepare," Wilma Manda, marketing head of the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of the Philippines (IFCP), told INQUIRER Entertainment.

For funds

Nine digital films were supposed to be shown for free from May 4 to 6 on a 9-by-12-feet giant screen for the Indie Sine Fiesta Boracay Beachfront Digital Film Festival. Unfortunately, the project did not take off.

BEACH/ D4

FACT: 5000 DEAD WOMEN, 1,700 MORE MISSING.

The **killings** began in ***1993***.

The **victims**, all poor women, were **raped, strangled** and **mutilated**. They were a particular type — young and slender, with brown skin and long brown hair.

These **mysterious** and **brutal deaths** took place in Juárez, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande from El Paso, and they have **continued** for **13 years**, with **no end** in sight.

With a **body count** now **estimated** at some **5000**, and **1,700 more missing**, these mysterious killings have been called the **Maquiladora Murders**.

As bodies continue to turn up, so have a host of **theories**. Perhaps victims of **dark satanic rituals, organ harvesters , femicide** or **misogyny**???

OPENS TOMORROW

JENNIFER LOPEZ ANTONIO BANDERAS

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 (GP) 12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00

3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN MTRCB PG-13 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45

4 SHREK 3 (GP) 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30 PIRATES 3 (GP) 8:30

PREMIERE THEATRE ZODIAC (R-13) 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

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2 ZODIAC 1:50, 5:00, 8:10, 11:10 R-13

3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 12:40, 4:10, 7:50, 11:30 G

4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 G

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Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice For verification, please call 729 7777

THX

G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY	2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	3 ZODIAC	4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN	2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	3 THX PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 SPIDER-MAN 3	5 SHREK 3	6 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY	7 ZODIAC
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN		
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS		
		3 SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS	5 ZODIAC GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS	2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY		
		3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	5 ZODIAC	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY	2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN	3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	4 SHREK 3
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN	2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY		
		3 SHREK 3	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	5 ZODIAC	

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
The Philippine Star's Go-4 K.O June 2, 2007	Fitness at the Town: Free well-being & invigorating health classes at Cortes De Las Palmas & Town Plaza June 1 to 13, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Strawberry Shortcake & Friends - The Big Berry Bake Off at Onstage, cinema 1 June 1 to 3, 2007	QTV 11: May Trabaho Ka "Fashion Show" June 2, 2007

GREENBELT
Double Midnight Madness Sale
June 1 & 2 - up to 12 midnight;
June 3 - extended sale during mall hours

Onstage
ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007
For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861

Ayala MUSEUM
Embroidered Mutliples: 18th - 19th Century Philippine Costume fr. The Museum Volkenkunde (National Museum of Ethnology), The Netherlands June 4 to July 1, 2007
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

WIN your very own ADVANCE SCREENING of Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer

FANTASTIC 4 RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER

In Ayala Malls Cinemas starting June 13

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW

at the cinema ticketbooths of GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 3 & ALABANG TOWN CENTER

And get the chance to win your very own ADVANCE SCREENING of Fantastic 4: Rise of the Silver Surfer for you & your friends at the posh MyCinema of Greenbelt 3!

Plus win Fantastic Four PREMIUM ITEMS!

Pls. see promo banners & leaflets for details
Promo period: May 25 to June 6, 2007
Raffle Draw Date: June 7, 2007

20th Century Fox MARVEL gloriette GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER

SCHOOL BAGS UP FOR GRABS!

Ayala Malls Livemall

GET A CHANCE TO WIN
A SCHOOL BAG
AND OTHER PRIZES
FOR EVERY P300
WORTH OF SAME DAY PURCHASE
RECEIPTS FROM PARTICIPATING STORES!
See leaflets for details.

Promo period is from May 30 to June 17, 2007.
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A2-000, SERIES OF 2007

MARKET! MARKET! The fun is in the finds

National Book Store venie

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA
Ticket Price THX:P161 131 Indie Sine:101 632-9116

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3 • THX
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

4 ZODIAC
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 FRACTURE
12:20 2:40 5:00

7 WHISPER
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

8 indieSine: METLOGS
1:30 3:20 5:10 8:50

9 SPIDER-MAN 3
1:15 4:05 6:55 9:45

10 SHREK 3
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

NOW SHOWING

Cris Pablo's
METLOGS!

Starring: CHOCOLEYT
3 young men leave their provinces to try their luck in Metro Manila. They come under the care of Vitarich, an aging gay full of wit and wisdom. Metlogs is a fun film about young men and their survival tactics for the harsh and expensive urban lives they lead.
MAY 30 to JUNE 05
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
MTRCB Rating: PG13

ERMITA
Ticket Price: 131/121 538-7809 to 12

1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 FRACTURE 12:35 3:00
WHISPER 5:30 7:45 10:00

3 SHREK 3
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 ZODIAC
12:45 3:50 6:55 10:00

5 SPIDER-MAN 3
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

6 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:15 2:50 6:25 10:00

METRO EAST
Ticket Price:P100 Tel: 682-8193, 682-8199

1 SHREK 3
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
1:15 3:50 6:25

3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
10:45 1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

4 SPIDER-MAN 3
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

5 FRACTURE 12:30 2:45
WHISPER 5:10 7:00 9:00

6 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2:40 5:50

7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

8 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

NOVALICHES
Ticket Price P90 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
5 SHREK 3
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?

PIONEER
Ticket Price P100 687-5376

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
1:40 5:05 8:30

2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
12:10 2:20 4:30 6:40 8:40

3 SHREK 3
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:40

4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

STA. ROSA
Ticket Price: P80 (049) 837-0907

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 SHREK 3
4 LUCKY YOU
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?

LIPA
Ticket Price: (043) 757-3884 P90 (043) 312-5870

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
3 THE LAST MIMZY
4 SHREK 3
5 FIREHOUSE DOG

DASMARIÑAS
Ticket Price: P80 (046) 416-4332

1 LUCKY YOU
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
5 SHREK 3

ANGELES
Ticket Price: P 90 (045) 892-2348

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?

IMUS
Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 FRACTURE
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 PREMONITION
4 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
6 SHREK 3

STARMILLS
Ticket Price: P80 (045) 875-1927

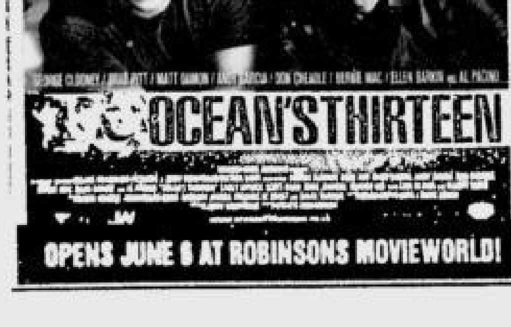
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
6 28 WEEKS LATER

BACOLOD
Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
3 RESERVE
4 SHREK 3
5 FIREHOUSE DOG
6 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2

ILOILO
Ticket Price: P70.50 (033) 336-8070

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
3 SHREK 3
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2
5 FRACTURE
6 THE CONDEMNED



What does it take to steal 500 million dollars in 3.5 minutes?

Send us your answer to the movie question of the day and win exclusive OCEAN'S THIRTEEN movie items.

What is the tagline of the movie, OCEAN'S THIRTEEN?
a. REVENGE is a FUNNY THING
b. Jack's Back
c. Be afraid. Be very afraid.

Please email answers to: saharajean.garnica@robinsonsland.com with your complete name, address, contact number. There will be different questions each day. Winners will be notified via email.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza / EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

1 (DOLBY) MR. BEAN
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 (DOLBY) PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 (DOLBY) SHREK 3
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) ZODIAC

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 SHREK THE THIRD

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1 (DOLBY) PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 (DOLBY) ZODIAC
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 (DOLBY) MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 8433994

1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

THEATRES
SHREK THE THIRD
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 ZODIAC
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
7 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 SPIDER-MAN-3
10 SHREK THE THIRD

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 (DOLBY) PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 (DOLBY) MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 (DOLBY) SHREK THE THIRD

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 ZODIAC
5 SPIDER-MAN-3

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA 1·2·3·4
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 28 WEEKS LATER

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 FIREHOUSE DOG

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 ZOMBIES

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 SHREK THE THIRD

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.4963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 (DOLBY) ZODIAC
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 (DOLBY) MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 LUCKY YOU / SPIDER-MAN-3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SHREK THE THIRD
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 SHREK THE THIRD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 PREMONITION
2 28 WEEKS LATER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 28 WEEKS LATER
2 PUKYOTAN
3 LAST MIMZY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 OBSESSION
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 NAGDADALAGA
5 PREMONITION

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 SATANICA
2 FIREHOUSE DOG
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PIC UP GIRL
2 ROOM SERVICE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 3 G 11:00,2:20,5:40,9:00	MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY G 11:05,1:15,3:25,5:35, 7:45,10:00	ZODIAC R13 1:00,4:10,7:20,10:30
PAANO KITA IIBIGIN PG13 12:30,2:55,5:20, 7:45,10:10	SHREK 3 G 12:10,2:15,4:20, 6:25,8:30	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 3 G 12:00,3:20,6:40,10:00

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 10:30 , 2:00 , 5:30 9:00 GP
CINEMA 2 SHREK 03 11:35 , 1:40 , 3:45 5:50 , 7:55 , 10:00 GP
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 ZODIAC 11:10 , 2:20 , 5:30 8:40 R-13
CINEMA 4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY 12:15 , 2:25 , 4:35 6:45 , 9:00 GP
CINEMA 5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 11:35 , 3:05 , 6:35 10:00 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

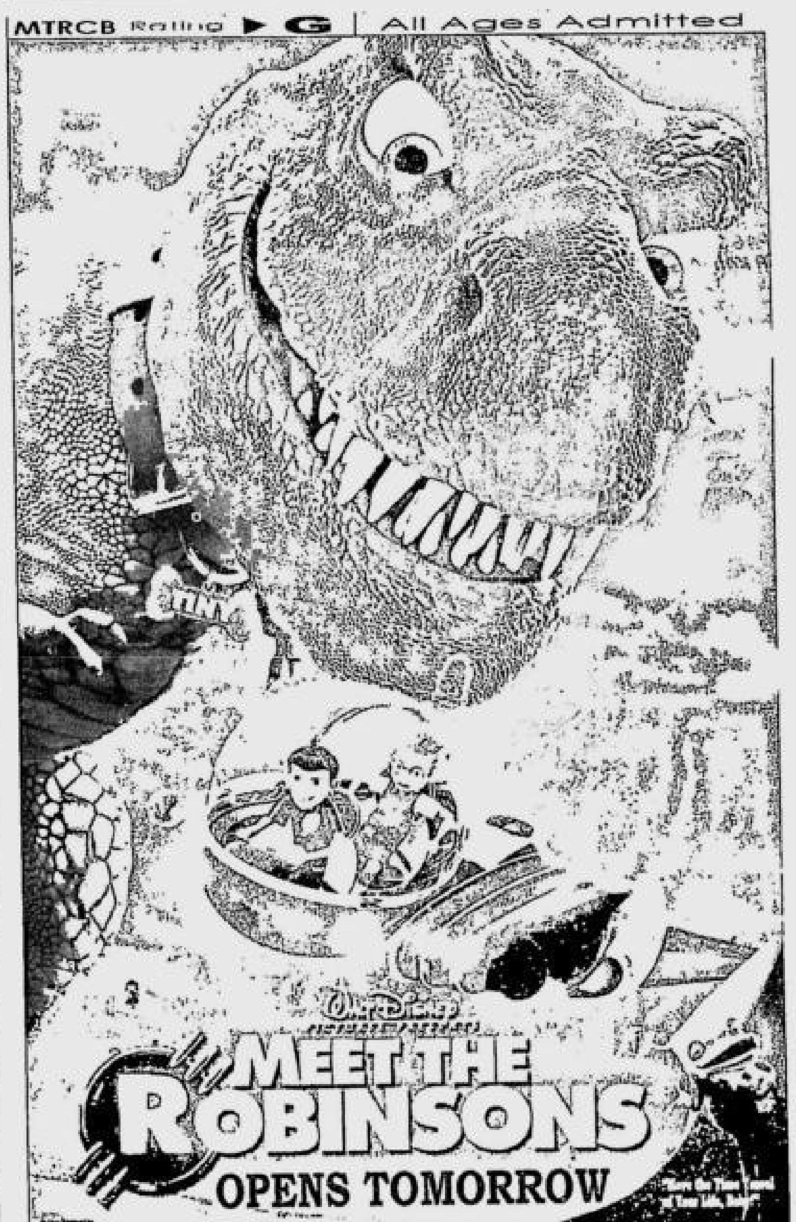
June 15 & 26 , 2007	Rico J. Puno & Mitch Valdez	8:00 PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
June 08 , 22 , 29 , 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
June 15 , 2007	Champion of the World (Jed Madela)	8:30 PM

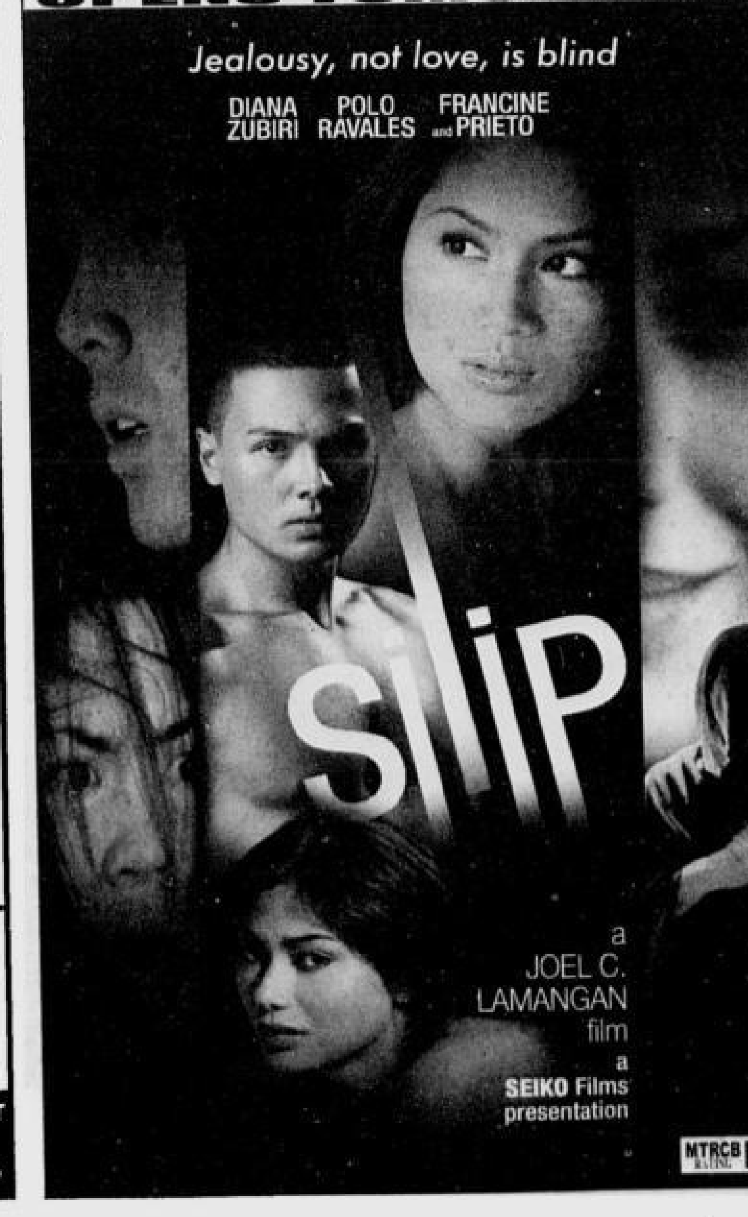
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

MTRCB Rating ▶ G | All Ages Admitted



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

FLASH REPORT: WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SELECTED SM THEATERS!!!
OPENS TOMORROW



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS

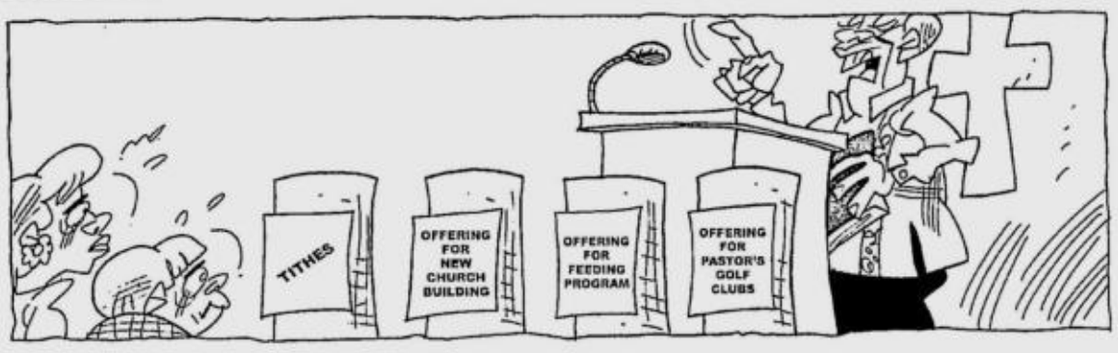
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS

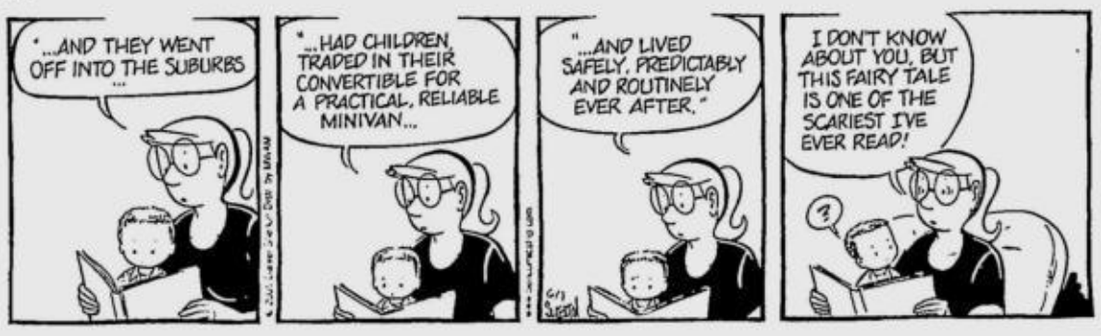
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN

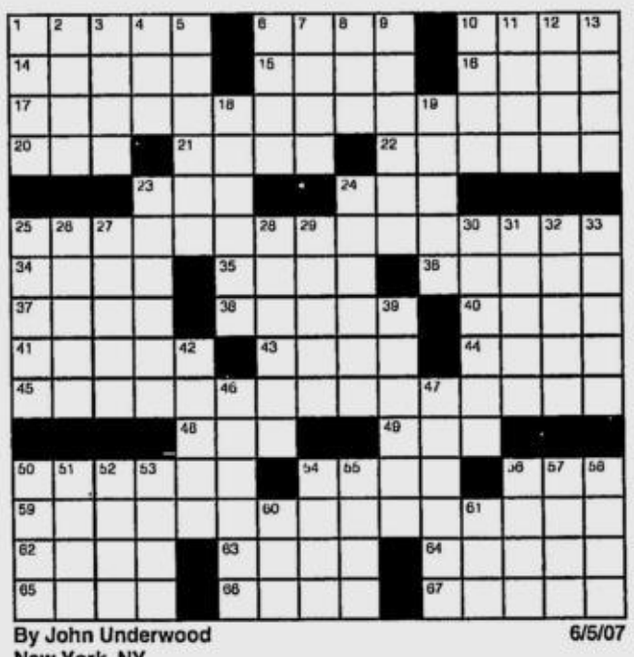
BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Sandbar
6 Worn out
10 Point after deuce, perhaps
14 Greek letter
15 Bay of Pigs island
16 Lottolike game
17 1926 novel
20 Japanese title of respect
21 Skaters' milieu
22 Create charged particles
23 Peach stone
24 Concorde, e.g.
25 1929 novel
34 Speechless actor
35 Small intestine prefix
36 Honker
37 Scott Turow title
38 Music paces
40 Neet rival
41 Celestial dog
43 Rejections
44 Cross inscription
45 1952 novel
48 Freon or neon
49 Santa chuckles
50 Kind of name or voyage
54 Doomsday device
56 Soviet CIA counterpart
59 Author of 17A, 25A and 45A
62 Harassed persistently
63 Sushi fish
64 Geometric paintings
65 Ice cream brand
66 Letters on love letters
67 Western state capital

DOWN
1 Cpls.' superiors
2 Sunken fence
3 Seer's sign
4 Wee hrs.
5 Metcalf or Anderson
6 Thumb through
7 Wrestler Hogan
8 Some MDs
9 Follower of Lao-tzu
10 Blood-related
11 Lucy lover
12 "Mockingbird" singer Foxx
13 Snout
18 Mooncalf
19 Old newspaper sections
23 Early round, briefly
24 Inclined
25 BP merger partner
26 Ultimate
27 Modify
28 Verdugo and Firsova
29 Clunker car
30 Potts and Lennox
31 Colorful mounts
32 Watered silk
33 Parallel bands
39 Corinth and Panama
42 Wise guys
46 Tours neighbor
47 Associate familiarly
50 Slight
51 Yanks slugger
52 __ 500
53 Poor grades
54 Actor Lugosi
55 Trans-Siberian RR stop
56 "The Bridge on the River __"
57 Long-jawed fish
58 Storage unit
60 Chop down
61 Govt. publishers



By John Underwood
New York, NY
6/5/07

Monday's Puzzle Solved

N	A	M	E		W	A	F	E	R		C	H	I	C
A	R	E	S		A	L	I	V	E		H	A	S	H
S	N	A	K	E	R	I	V	E	R		E	L	S	E
D	E	N	I	M		T	E	N	E	B	R	O	U	S
			M	I	D			T	A	L	U	S	E	S
G	A	T	O	R	A	D	E		D	E	B			
A	R	E		S	T	A	G	S		W	I	N	E	S
R	E	N	D		A	U	R	I	C		C	O	L	T
R	A	D	I	O		B	E	L	L	E		E	L	Y
			S	R	S		T	O	A	D	F	L	A	X
H	A	I	R	D	O	S			D	U	O			
A	N	N	O	U	N	C	E	S		C	D	R	O	M
S	N	U	B		T	U	R	T	L	E	D	O	V	E
T	O	R	E		A	L	G	A	E		E	P	E	E
E	Y	E	S		G	L	O	B	E		R	E	N	T

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6/5/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're bright, clever and quick-witted. You have much energy to do and go after whatever you want. You see the big picture, but you don't ignore the details. You are always true to your ideals. You're very competitive; you like to win! You also like to spread the word about whatever you believe. This year will focus on your closest partnerships and friendships.
Birthdate of: Ken Follett, author; Bill Moyers, TV journalist; Ron Livingston, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The next six weeks will be much more fun-loving than usual. Enjoy sports, vacations, artistic pursuits and playful activities with children. Romance and love affairs will get a major boost!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your domestic situation will become more warm and pleasant in the month ahead. Not only will family members get along better, you'll also want to make where you live look more attractive.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might be surprised to discover just how much love there is around you in your daily world during the next six weeks. This is something we often take for granted until we lose it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Something having to do with your financial scene is definitely going to improve now. In the next two months, you'll have opportunities to earn more as well as spend more!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today fair Venus enters your sign, where it will stay for the next six weeks. This improves all your relations with others, because it makes you particularly charming!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you if you get a chance to enjoy some time out. With the Sun high in your chart, people notice you now. (It's a relief to slip away.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): In the month ahead, your relationships with friends, groups, clubs and organizations will become more meaningful and certainly more pleasant. Expect to deepen some friendships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Some of you might develop a crush on your boss. All of you will certainly enjoy relationships with parents, teachers, bosses and authority figures during the next month.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): In the next six weeks, travel for pleasure will certainly delight. Publishing, the media and educational matters are favored.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Gifts, goodies, favors, inheritances and the use of other people's property can benefit you in the next months. Keep your pockets open!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Today fair Venus moves directly opposite your sign, where it will stay for the next six weeks. This helps to improve all your relations with others, especially partners and close friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Matters at work and matters related to your health will definitely improve in the next month. Co-workers are friendly.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				8		4	1	
7		8	1					
4			7				2	
			8		1	6	3	
5								1
	4	3	6		9			
	1				3			8
					4	3		2
	9	4		7				

Difficulty Level ★★
6/05

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	5	9	2	8	4	3	7	6
6	4	8	3	7	9	2	5	1
3	7	2	1	5	6	8	4	9
2	6	4	7	9	1	5	8	3
5	9	1	8	2	3	4	6	7
7	8	3	6	4	5	1	9	2
8	2	6	5	3	7	9	1	4
4	1	5	9	6	2	7	3	8
9	3	7	4	1	8	6	2	5

Difficulty Level ★

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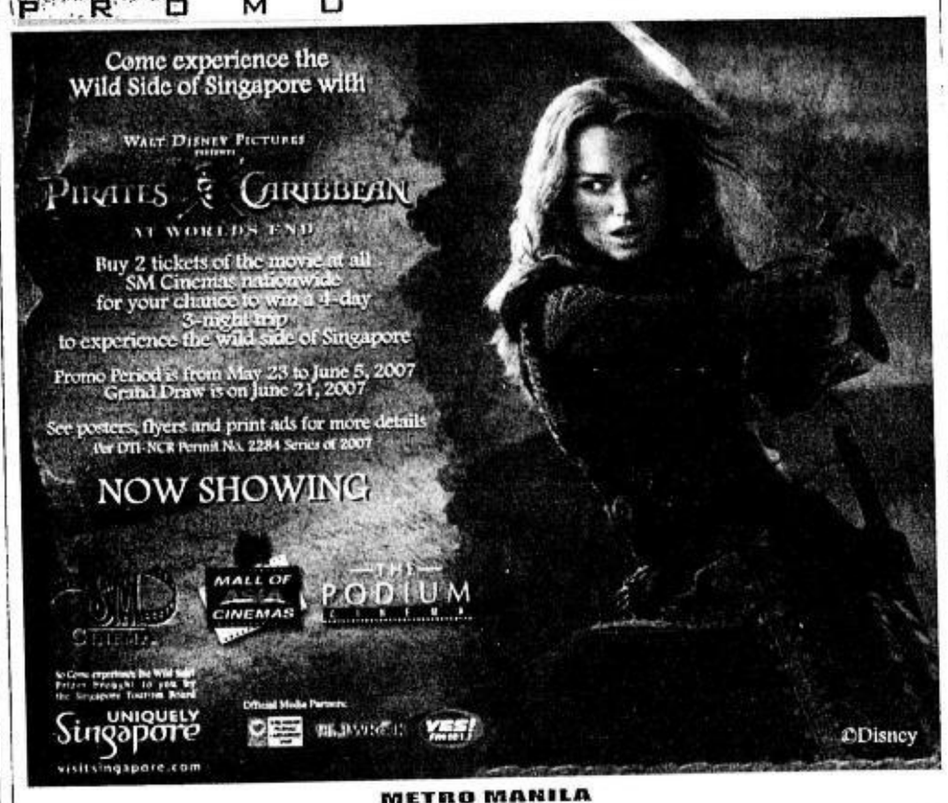
Watch and Win at SM Cinema



METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0242
IMAX
SPIDER-MAN 3
2:30PM 5:30PM 8:30PM
Admission Prices: P 350
T-REX
1:00PM
Admission Prices: P 200
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 ZODIAC
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 SHREK 3
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
PREMIERE CINEMA
PAANO KITA IIBIGIN/ SPIDER-MAN 3
CENTERSTAGE
PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
CINEMA 2
1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 SHREK 3
7 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
8 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
9 ZODIAC
10 SPIDER-MAN 3
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
12 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
6 ZODIAC
7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 WHISPER
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
10 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
12 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 WHISPER
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 SHREK 3
6 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
7 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
10 SHREK 3
11 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
12 28 WEEKS LATER

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 FRACTURE
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 28 WEEKS LATER
9 SHREK 3
10 WHISPER

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 SHREK 3
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 ZODIAC
9 WHISPER

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 SHREK 3

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 ZODIAC
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
5 SHREK 3
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
7 SHREK 3
8 WHISPER
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
10 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
12 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 SHREK 3
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 SHREK 3
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 SHREK 3

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MTRCB Rating G (All Ages Admitted)
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LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
5 SHREK 3
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 28 WEEKS LATER
8 WHISPER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 SHREK 3
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 FIREHOUSE DOG
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 SHREK 3

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 SHREK 3

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
5 28 WEEKS LATER
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 SHREK 3

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 SHREK 3
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 SHREK 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 SHREK 3
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 LUCKY YOU
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SHREK 3
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 SHREK 3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 FRACTURE
2 CONDEMNED
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 SHREK 3
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 RESERVED
8 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 THE LAST MIMZY
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 SHREK 3
7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 FIREHOUSE DOG

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Gateway Mall
Farmers Plaza
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Gateway CinePlex*10
LARGEST CURVED SCREEN 70 FT WIDE, 30 FT HIGH
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 12:00 / 1:20 / 3:20 4:40 / 6:40 / 8:00 / 10:00
PAANO KITA IIBIGIN 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50
ZODIAC 11:30 / 2:40 / 5:50 / 9:00
SPIDERMAN 3 1:10 / 4:00 / 6:50 / 9:40
MR BEAN'S HOLIDAY 11:50 / 1:50 / 3:50 5:50 / 7:50 / 9:50
SHREK 3 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 11:00 / 2:20 / 5:40 / 9:00

Gateway Mall 5
1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN 12:15 R5 / 1:20 / 3:45 / 6:10 / 8:35
2 MR BEAN'S HOLIDAY 12:50 / 2:50 / 4:50 / 6:50 / 8:50
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 11:30 / 2:40 / 5:50 / 9:00
4 SHREK 3 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00
5 SPIDERMAN 3 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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CHAD & JEREMY together with THE ASSOCIATION
June 15, Friday 8 pm

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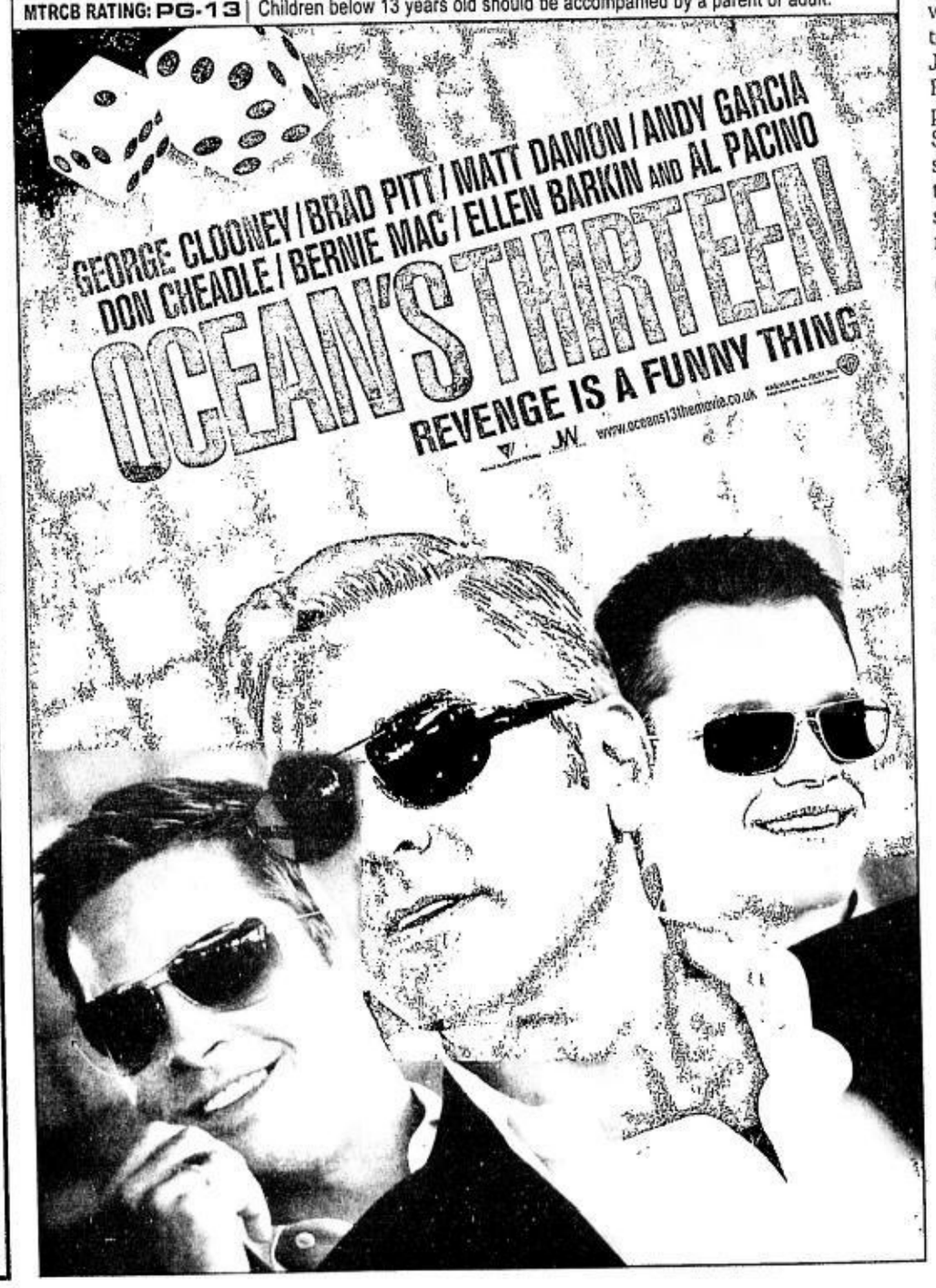
MTRCB RATING: PG-13 | Children below 13 years old should be accompanied by a parent or adult.



Beach indies moved

From page D1

The event was intended to raise funds for the IFCP, a network of independent filmmakers and film distribution providers that aims to present film/digital features to varied audience.

A similar event is also being planned held in the provinces of Mindoro and Cebu, said Manda.

Program

Aureaus Solito's "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," Emman dela Cruz's "Sarong Banggi" and Dennis Marasigan's "Sa North Diversion Road" are set to be screened on the first night of the festival in December. The exact dates will be announced later.

To be featured on the second night are Khavn dela Cruz's "Squatterpunk," Mario Cornejo and Monster Jimenez's "Big Time" and Cris Pablo's "Metlogs."

Ellen Ramos' and Paolo Villaluna's "Illusyon," Will Fredo's "Compound" and Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's "Mga Pusang Gala" will be screened on the last day.

Targets

The fund-raising venture is also a project of Prologos Media Services to support the operation of Mobile Sine. This one aims to screen digital films in both public and private schools "in order to develop a market for independent films," said Manda.

The group's target viewers are the primary and secondary school levels.

"We have to raise a little more money to bring the films to Boracay," said Manda. "The locals are all excited. *Wala kasing sinehan doon*. Meanwhile, we're thankful to Asian Spirit and Josie Tupas of Casa Fiesta for seeing the potential of Mobile Sine in Boracay, and supporting us even in the organizational stage this past summer."

Gold mine

Manda added: "We want people to see that the beachfront is a potential gold mine. Mobile Sine is selling the novelty of the beachfront as an alternative cinema venue."

Manda said the IFCP is also busy finalizing the Bagong Agos Film Festival, an exhibition of local full-length and short films to be held in January 2008. Submission of entries is tentatively set in July, with the final lineup to be announced in October.

Also on the drawing board is this year's Digital International Film Festival, an annual exhibition of digital shorts, features, documentaries, and digital experimental films to be held also in December. A series of digital filmmaking-related workshops will begin on Nov. 28.